

Fear of mainland IRA campaign

Soldier killed by rush-hour London bomb

By Staff Reporters

AN ARMY sergeant was killed and another injured yesterday after a bomb "smashed to smithereens" a military van in Wembley, north-west London. A motorcyclist was seen speeding away after the explosion.

The blast, two days after the IRA attacked the Army education directorate headquarters in the capital, was the fourth mainland attack this year and increased fears of an intensification in the IRA's campaign. Thirteen people have been killed in attacks in the past 21 months.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that Britain appeared to be the target of a new IRA campaign of terror and gave a warning that no military installation in the country was safe from attack. "This is another terrible outrage," he said. "This is an attack which has shown no interest in people's lives, people have been indiscriminately wounded in the rush-hour."

The Wembley device, which exploded at 5.12 pm, was believed to have been clamped to the underside of the van that had been parked all day in an alley at the rear of an Army careers information office in Thurloe Gardens, near the junction with the Harrow Road shopping centre, half a mile from Wembley stadium. The two victims were getting into the vehicle when the bomb went off. Had it exploded 24 hours later, the street would have been

thronged with supporters going to the FA Cup Final replay.

The injured man, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his legs, staggered into the street after the blast and warned bystanders to move away in case there was another bomb.

He was later taken to Northwick Park hospital, where his condition last night was said to be stable.

Police cordoned off a wide area around the scene as bomb squad officers arrived, and helicopters hovered above after the Civil Aviation Authority ordered a mile and half high exclusion zone.

Mr Peter Kay, a painter and decorator aged 20, said he saw the bomb go off. "I saw the van blown up," he said. "It was totally wrecked. The man inside was dead and another man was wandering about stunned and shocked. All his face was burnt. He came and told all of us to move back. He said there might be another bomb. I saw a hand on the crossing of Ealing Road and Lancelot Road, the police covered it with a blanket."

Mr Michael Ryan, a carpenter aged 28, said: "I just saw one guy stumbling out, his face and all his clothing was completely blackened. Blood was coming out of his mouth."

Mr Ryan said that immediately after the blast "everyone rushed over to see what had happened. This guy was just shouting out 'get the hell out of the way'."

A London ambulance spokesman said: "The vehicle was smashed to smithereens. It had been blown up in the air and was unrecognizable."

Three people suffering from shock received treatment and were giving statements to the police.

Mr Colin Biggert, who heard the blast from his office, said the explosion did not appear to have caused much damage to buildings although it had broken windows.

"There was a little bit of panic. There were a few ladies running around in a very bad state of shock."

On Monday, seven people were injured when an IRA bomb buried in a flower bed exploded outside the front door of the Directorate of Army Education headquarters in Eitham, south London. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terror squad said then: "This may only be the start of several further devices going off in different parts of the country."

Lonrho to sue Tebbit

Lonrho has issued a writ against Mr Norman Tebbit, Trade and Industry Secretary at the time of the takeover of House of Fraser by the Fayed brothers five years ago. Lonrho accuses Mr Tebbit of negligence and abuse of his powers and claims damages for the loss of Lonrho's opportunity to bid for House of Fraser. Page 25

Howe warning
The economic "soft landing" for which the Government had been aiming was proving bumpy. Sir Geoffrey Howe said yesterday. Pay and costs must be controlled. Page 2

Double loss
The world of showbusiness was last night mourning the death of Sammy Davis Jr, the entertainer, who died at the age of 64 from throat cancer (report, page 19), and Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets, who died suddenly in New York (page 3). Obituaries, page 16

Arms scheme
The former deputy chairman of Ferranti International, Mr James Guerin, was behind an illegal scheme to export weapons to South Africa, according to FBI evidence. Page 25

Missing link
A missing link between reptile-like creatures known as pelycosaurs, which thrived more than 320 million years ago, and their descendants, from which mammals were derived, has been identified. Page 35

Leeds inflation
Leeds United, newly promoted to the first division, has more than doubled the cost of season tickets. Page 48

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By Richard Evans
Media Editor

SAATCHI and Saatchi, the trouble-hit communications group, was rocked last night by the resignation of five senior directors from its London advertising agency, who are to form a rival company.

The five, together with three other members of the breakaway team, claim to have been responsible for around £72 million or 20 per cent of Saatchi annual billings and £15 million of new business over the past two years. All five directors were Saatchi "born and bred", with more than 50 working years' experience at London's biggest agency. The new agency is to be called Cowan, Kemsley, Taylor Ltd. Another breakaway is strongly rumoured. Mr Paul Cowan, Saatchi's most experi-

enced group account director and manager of the new agency, said yesterday: "We believe room exists for a lean and fit agency. We want to recapture the original Saatchi spirit and advertising values."

Mr Cowan, aged 38, told Mr Paul Bainsfair and Mr Bill Muirhead, managing director and chairman of the Saatchi agency, about the mass defections last night. Other directors going are Mr Adrian Kemsley, the creative executive at Saatchi with most awards and a board member since 1988; Miss Maggie Taylor, a board member since 1987 and recently promoted to divisional planning director; Mr Josh Dovey, promoted to the board in 1988 and broadcast director at Zenith Media; and Mr Charlie Makin, media group director since 1988.

Earlier this month Mr Terry Banister and Mr Roy Warman left Saatchi and Saatchi, two years after they were appointed to the advertising group's main board, while Mr John Sharkey resigned this week as deputy chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising International. In the mid- and late-1980s, the agency lost some of the sharpness, dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit which had contributed towards its success.

Although the new Cowan, Kemsley, Taylor agency will be starting from scratch at a time when the advertising industry is coming to terms with harsh economic realities, the partners' experience and previous associations with top accounts could pose problems for their former employer.

Mr Cowan's account group at Saatchi, formed in 1987, expanded

its turnover from £4.5 million to £44 million with campaigns ranging from Racal Vodafone and the Solid Fuel Campaign to Reckitt and Coleman and the launch of Plax in the UK. The creative partners in the new agency have scooped 22 industry awards since 1984.

Mr Bainsfair attempted last night to put a brave face on yesterday's developments. "I don't see it as a major problem as far as the running of the agency is concerned. Obviously I am very sad because I know these people personally, but on the other hand they are not leaving here with any business. They are not taking any accounts with them."

He emphasized that the agency had 70 directors, so the resignations would not have the impact normally associated with a company's board.



Where's the beef? Mr John Gummer pressing a burger on his daughter Cordelia, aged four, at Colchester yesterday to underline his contention that the meat is safe

Iran says no to UK talks

By Andrew McEwan
Diplomatic Editor

IRAN yesterday refused a British offer to hold a brief meeting between officials to break the diplomatic ice between the two countries. Its decision was a setback after encouraging signs that direct talks might be imminent, and almost certainly reflects opposition from hardliners in Tehran.

The British Government had told a Foreign Office official to try to make contact with an Iranian delegation which held talks yesterday with representatives of three European Community countries. Mr Jeremy Greenstock, deputy political director at the Foreign Office, was asked to make the approach after the Iran-EC meeting. Whitehall sources said the Foreign Office had been given to understand that the Iranian delegation would be willing to see Mr Greenstock, but in the event he had no hesitation in asserting that "beef can be eaten safely by everyone, both adults and children, including patients in hospital". The inquiry, which

is expected to start next week and produce a report by the end of July, will be held by the Tory-dominated House of Commons agriculture select committee.

Mr Gummer is expected to give evidence. Professor Richard Lacey, the Leeds University microbiologist who says that all cattle in herds infected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) should be destroyed, will be questioned by the committee.

The committee's chairman, Mr Jerry Wiggin, Conservative MP for Weston super Mare and a former junior agriculture minister, said he considered there was no threat to humans from "properly cooked beef" and criticized local education authorities for having banned it from school canteens.

Dr David Clark, the Labour Party spokesman on agriculture, said the Government's handling of "mad cow" disease had been a fiasco and showed it was incapable of handling sensitive food issues.

While the move to ban beef spread to schools in the Greater Manchester area, after a similar decision by at least seven education authorities in other parts of the country on Tuesday, the Association of London Authorities said the 14 Labour-run boroughs it represents would not be joining the "stampede to panic".

Whitehall sources underlined that Mr Greenstock had been instructed only to seek a "brief meeting" which should not be construed as the opening of direct talks.

The British move followed hints that both sides might be nearly ready to move from indirect to direct talks. But in both capitals there are some who oppose a closer relationship. A radical Iranian newspaper yesterday stepped up pressure on President Rafsanjani not to make any concessions by calling for the execution of Mr Roger Cooper, the British businessman held in Iran.

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MPs launch beef inquiry

By Michael Hornsby and Sheila Gamm

AN URGENT parliamentary inquiry was launched yesterday in an attempt to dispel widening public anxiety about a possible threat to human beings from the "mad cow" disease which has led to beef being taken off the menu in hundreds of schools.

Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who was photographed macking into a beef burger at a function in his Suffolk constituency, said he would be happy to co-operate with the inquiry and repeated his belief that British beef is "perfectly safe".

That judgement was supported by Sir Donald Achison, the Government's Chief Medical Officer. Sir Donald said that after taking advice from leading scientific and medical experts he had no hesitation in asserting that "beef can be eaten safely by everyone, both adults and children, including patients in hospital". The inquiry, which

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Ministers at odds over loss of 770 steel jobs

By Kerry Gill and Robin Oakley

CLEAR differences emerged between Mr Malcolm Rifkind and some of his Cabinet colleagues last night over British Steel's plans to close the Ravenscraig strip mill in Motherwell next year with the loss of 770 jobs.

Condemnation of the decision from all quarters in Scotland was led by Mr Rifkind, the Secretary of State, and was accompanied by claims that Scottish steel production would end within four years.

British Steel is to spend £3m on Llanwern works, an investment similar to that at Port Talbot, so that its strip products division could take full advantage of modernized facilities in South Wales. While the company said it would try to find new jobs for the men in the Motherwell area, it added:

"The impact of the continuous casting investments at Port Talbot and Llanwern will, in due course, also affect steel production at Ravenscraig so that production of steel at that works beyond 1994 will be dependent upon the economic and commercial scene and the demand for steel slabs."

Answering a private notice question from his Labour shadow Mr Donald Dewar, Mr Rifkind said he deplored the proposed closure and appealed for politicians in all parties to unite in pressing a sober commercial case on British Steel for keeping the hot strip mill open. Earlier he had called the decision arbitrary and unreasonable.

Mr Rifkind's remarks were seen in the Department of Trade and Industry as amounting to "Labourpeak", appearing to condemn a straight commercial decision as an act of social and economic vandalism. It was

Old fears, page 2

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Oil clean-up dispute

workers were still struggling to contain the spillage, fearing that onshore winds could drive more oily sludge onto beaches so far unaffected.

Greenpeace criticized the attempt to clean up the oil as "unco-ordinated", although the most sensitive wildlife areas appeared so far to have escaped serious damage.

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Five Saatchi directors quit to form rival firm

Earlier this month Mr Terry Banister and Mr Roy Warman left Saatchi and Saatchi, two years after they were appointed to the advertising group's main board, while Mr John Sharkey resigned this week as deputy chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising International. In the mid- and late-1980s, the agency lost some of the sharpness, dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit which had contributed towards its success.

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Old fears become numbing reality at Ravenscraig

By Kerry Gill

THE vast Ravenscraig steel complex dominates the skyline above Motherwell, but, for the past decade, constant doubts over its future have cast the shadow of impending unemployment over the surrounding community in Lanarkshire.

Yesterday, British Steel announced what, for many, seemed inevitable. The all-important strip mill employing 770 people is to close, leading to the probable demise of steel manufacture in Scotland within four years.

The news came with a suddenness that almost defied belief. Mr Lawrence Hoey, aged 20, who was visiting British Steel for a job interview, said: "I was sitting there

when the guy interviewing me said he had to go. He came back, his face was white, and he told me there was no point in continuing as he had no job to offer me."

Mr Hoey, from the nearby village of Craignruk, said: "It was unreal. There I was, expecting to be offered a job, and suddenly I was told my prospective employer was shedding hundreds of jobs."

His brother, Tom, aged 22, faces a similar plight. He is studying mechanical engineering at Strathclyde University, sponsored by British Steel. He says his degree was linked to the strip mill. "With my degree, I could work anywhere, but I really want to work at the 'Craig,'" Mr Hoey said.

At a cafe near the works, Mr

Peter Freeman has served the workers with snacks, cigarettes and newspapers for many years, and has recently invested money in improving the cafe and his shop.

"This is the worst news that I have ever had," he said. "I will be ruined. No one can afford to lose more than 700 customers. Everyone is shocked. If Ravenscraig goes, then I will probably have to go too. There is no point in trying to run a shop with nobody to sell anything to."

Others were equally pessimistic about a future without money from Ravenscraig. Mrs Elizabeth McHardy, who lives near the plant, said that Craignruk would become a ghost village. Her niece's husband had worked at Ravenscraig

for 23 years and would find it hard to find alternative employment.

Mr David Nicholson, aged 55, said: "I work in the strip mill and have a young son there, too. There will be no money coming into our house at all." He said that the workers had done all in their power to increase productivity – an effort recognized by everyone, even British Steel.

Over at one of the workers' public houses, the Era Bar, Mr Sean Galen, the owner, said: "The closure does not make any sense. British Steel always say market forces make them axe jobs, but they are just afraid to sell off Ravenscraig because an independent competitor would put them out of business. They should sell

the plant off to the Japanese, who would make a profit and keep everyone in work."

"Now my business is under threat. Normally the pub would be jumping, but it is half empty. I don't know what my future is."

Mr John Reid, Labour MP for Motherwell North, said that the strip mill closure would mean the end of Ravenscraig if British Steel were not persuaded to change its mind, a view echoed by Mr Charles Gray, leader of the Labour-run Strathclyde Regional Council. It is expected that there will be an emergency meeting of the recently formed all-party Steel Group of regional councillors.

British Steel yesterday announced that at least one "product-

ion pause" would take place at Ravenscraig. The first, from Sunday, June 10, is to last a week because of a "less favourable order book" in British Steel's strip products division.

The company said: "It is emphasized that this is an essential business decision taken to meet current market conditions and to maximize operational, commercial and financial efficiency within the Strip Products Division."

It was expected that during the holiday weeks beginning July 22 and July 29, some iron and steel production would take place. However, the company now believes that a second shutdown may be needed before or after the holiday period.

Howe urges industry to keep tight rein on pay

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A STRONG warning that industry would have to keep a tight grip on pay and other costs to avoid recession was delivered by the Government last night.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister and a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the economic "soft landing" for which the Government had been aiming was proving bumpy. He said it was up to senior executives to set an example by giving themselves and their employees responsible pay settlements. Addressing the British Property Federation, Sir Geoffrey said: "There is no need for recession so long as industry keeps tight control over its costs, particularly pay."

The former Foreign Secretary underlined Mrs Margaret Thatcher's hint at the weekend that the Government is now closer to taking Britain into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. He spoke of the progress being made on the Madrid conditions and said the major remaining condition for British entry was a reduction in the rate of inflation.

The Deputy Prime Minister said even the present rate was less out of line than the "raw RPI" suggested. "As our interest rate strategy bears fruit – as it will – this final hurdle can be overcome and Britain will take its rightful place within the ERM."

Sir Geoffrey gave a warning that interest rates would have to stay at a high level for some time if inflation was not only to come down but stay down. "Of course when the time comes when they can be safely lowered that will happen. But to reduce them prematurely, only to increase them again, would not make any kind of sense."

He said that getting the economy back into balance meant a tight fiscal policy with a budget surplus and a tough monetary policy with high interest rates. "There is no

Odd objects attract buyers



Lead Venus: A potential buyer at the McAlpine sale yesterday checking lot 639

COUNTRY house fever overtook buyers when Sotheby's began a two-day sale of contents from Lord McAlpine of West Green's home at Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, yesterday. (John Shaw writes).

A marquee on the lawn was packed for the sale, which is

expected to make £1 million.

Lord McAlpine, treasurer of

the Conservative Party for 15

years, was selling everything and intends to spend longer periods of his time in Australia.

Ornithological objects were used to decorate the house in an unconventional way. Sheep, crooks, policemen's truncheons, stuffed birds and duck decoys mingled with glass, fine porcelain and silver.

The contents of the family

wine cellar was included in the sale. Offbeat objects caught the eye and prices were bid up to high levels. A 19th-century window cleaner's ladder went for £462 (£200-£200), while a set of 18 cushions, 14 painted by George Oakes, a famous painter at Colefax and Fowler, sold for £3,520.

New York sales, page 13

Thatcher leads strategy talks on poll tax

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister will today chair the first meeting of the group of Cabinet ministers reviewing the operation of the community charge since the council elections that gave a much-needed lift to Conservative morale.

Among other ministers present will be Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, his department's leading minister on the biggest policy problem facing the Government.

Mr Lamont is presiding over the toughest spending round in years and his prominent role in the review underlines the Treasury's concern about its potential cost. Mr Patten is said to be looking for an extra £3 billion in Exchequer grant for councils.

Senior ministers discussed the implications of the council elections last Thursday after their regular Cabinet meeting and without the presence of their officials. Today's gathering, however, represents the first opportunity since the local government poll to consider reforms to the community charge in detail.

The meeting is one in a series that will culminate in an announcement in July linked to a decision about the amount of central government support local authorities will receive next year. A number of other ministers, including Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, will attend the meetings as the Government clarifies its thinking and possible changes impinge on their departments.

Todays meeting will take place against the background of the belief by ministers that people have come to accept what they regard as the principle behind the poll tax – that virtually everyone should make some contribution to local services.

They also believe that the council elections have demonstrated that it is the level of poll tax bills that is the problem, not the fundamentals of the new system for raising local government revenue.

The Government is already committed to legislation amending the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to take

holiday caravans out of the poll tax net. The meetings will also seek to iron out other anomalies such as the position of people who are being forced by local authorities to pay a much-needed lift to Conservative morale.

The law gives authorities discretion to charge up to twice the personal community charge in setting the standard charge for second homes and ministers are concerned that so many authorities are billing people at the maximum permitted level. Removing that discretionary power and compelling councils to levy smaller bills would also require legislation.

There are few signs, however, that ministers are near a solution to their main problem – how to ensure that extra Whitehall grant to councils next year goes towards reducing bills and is not siphoned off into higher spending. Mrs Margaret Thatcher made that the main theme of the review when she told Scottish Tories on Saturday: "Our aim won't be to protect high-spending socialist councils. It will be to give some protection to those who have to pay for them."

Mrs Thatcher said on Tuesday, however, that the structure of local authorities was a long-term issue which would probably mean it would only be tackled in the next Tory manifesto. Government sources are emphasizing this covers both the changes advocated by Mr Michael Heseltine and supported by other leading Tories – replacing the present overlapping mix of district and county councils with unitary authorities and variations on local elections triggered by the tripwire of spending above a predetermined limit.

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Threat to theatre, page 7

Critics blamed as 'King' closes

By Simon Tait

Arts Correspondent

THE £3.5 million musical "King", which opened in London because the producers believed that unlike on Broadway "in the West End a critic can't kill a musical", is to close after only five weeks.

Based on the life of Martin Luther King, the American civil rights leader, the show at the Piccadilly Theatre was universally panned by critics. The producers were last night claiming that bad notices were responsible for the closure on June 2.

"One has heard of victory being snatched from the jaws of defeat," wrote Benedict Nightingale of *The Times*. "If anything has been snatched, it is confusion from the jaws of uncertainty."

Others were even more damning of the show, starring the opera singers Simon Estes and Cynthia Haymon. One wrote: "Throughout the performance there is no mistaking the idealism which has gone into *King*. Sadly, as this botched exercise demonstrates, there are times when idealism is not enough."

Mr Estes said last night: "I simply cannot understand why the newspapers treated the show the way they did. Every single night we have played to standing ovations."

"But our spirits are not dampened by this. We have had wonderful offers to play in the United States and in Europe, and I hear the record is selling well. Martin's dream will live through in this musical, even if it's not in London. I will be proud to be associated in any way I can."

He said he believed the musical had lost between £2.6 million and £3.3 million, but denied a rumoured £4.6 million loss which would make *King* one of the most expensive flops in West End history.

The musical, backed by a mixture of British, American and Swiss finance, faced a long series of problems. In the final months before opening, the show lost three writers and two directors. The King family withdrew their support because Mrs King believed the show "trivialized" her husband's memory, and Maya Angelou, the lyricist, sought to withdraw her name from the credits. Both later relented.

Flypast to mark battle anniversary

By Robin Young

THE RAF is to stage the largest flypast over London since the Queen's Coronation to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain on September 15.

It will take the 161 aircraft six minutes and 20 seconds to fly over Buckingham Palace starting at noon, at the height of a parade of 1,400 RAF and other personnel escorting the standards of the 17 Battle of Britain squadrons which are still operational.

The Queen will take the salute at a march past. Two Spitfires and two Hurricanes will lead the flypast which will include 15 types of aircraft.

Chess leaders

At the Zonal Tournament at Blackpool, the first leg to qualify for the 1993 world chess championship, leading scores were Daniel King and Murray Chandler 6 points out of 8; Julian Hodgson 5½ points out of 8, and Michael Adams and Mihai Suba 4½ points out of 7.

MP has cancer

Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, yesterday left an intensive care unit after surgery for stomach cancer, but will remain in Westminster Hospital, London, for a fortnight. The MP, aged 68, said last November that he will not stand at the next general election.

Arts prize day

The winners of the world's most valuable arts awards, the Praemium Imperiale Arts Prizes, awarded by the Japan Art Association and worth up to \$500,000, are to be announced in London on June 21. Mr Edward Heath, an adviser on the awards, said yesterday.

Water warning

HOSE pipe bans could be imposed in Devon and Cornwall within a month, South West Water said yesterday. The region is six weeks worse off than this time last year.

Staying The Times overseas: Australia S6.50; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada Cdn 10; France F 100; Germany DM 10; Italy L 100; Japan CI 500; New Zealand NZ 100; Norway Kr 100; Portugal Esc 100; Spain Pes 220; Sweden Skr 100; United Kingdom £ 1.25; USA \$2.25.

Porpoises take trip up the Thames

TWO porpoises made their way up the Thames yesterday to Tower Bridge.

The pair, believed to be male and female, were first sighted on the river last Friday. Since then, they have swum past the Thames Barrier and have been seen several miles further upstream, even as far as the Royal Albert Bridge two years ago.

Although clearly rather off-course, they appeared to be quite untroubled by the flotillas of pleasure boats, tugs and river buses which cruised past. A spokesman for the Port of

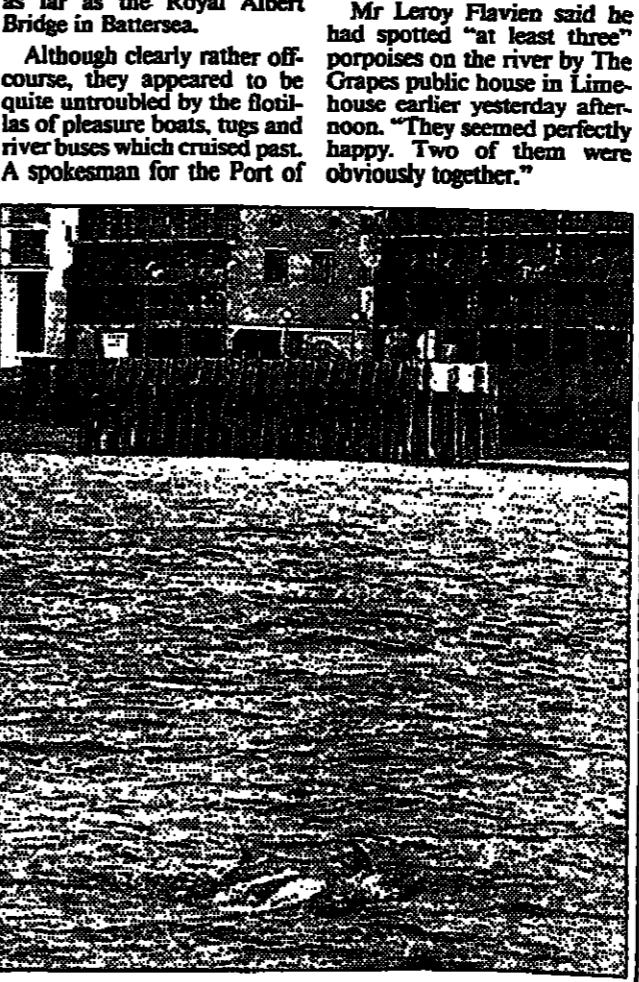
London Authority said: "I'm afraid they are well out of their way."

Andy Lyons, the 71-year-old skipper of the launch Wild Thing, which narrowly missed colliding with them yesterday, said he had seen a couple of porpoises by Westminster Bridge two years ago.

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Two spokesman for the Port of London Authority said: "We're obviously together."

Day in town: Two porpoises near Tower Bridge



Farmers fear boycott by fickle public

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

FOUR marmoset monkeys may enable scientists to assess more accurately whether the fatal "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), can be transmitted to human beings. Laboratory studies are being carried out at the Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, to see whether the marmosets can be infected with BSE or scrapie, a closely-related brain disease in sheep, by direct injection of contaminated tissue into their brains.

"Two years and three months ago, two of the marmosets were injected with BSE and two with scrapie tissue. So far, they have shown no sign of illness, which is already quite reassuring," Dr Rosemary Ridley, the scientist in

charge of the experiment, said yesterday. Because the incubation period in monkeys is between two and four years, the animals could still develop the disease. They have, however, already stayed healthy longer than some others in previous experiments that were injected with brain tissue from human victims of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

CJD is a form of spongiform encephalopathy in human beings which has been recorded, over the past decade, as killing about 30 people a year in England and Wales. Its cause is unknown, but it does not appear to be linked to exposure to scrapie.

"Even a positive laboratory

result, however, would not tell us much about the actual risk that humans face who might happen to eat BSE-infected meat."

Although cattle are believed to have acquired BSE through eating scrapie-infected material, people have been eating scrapie-infected lamb and mutton without demonstrable harm for at least two centuries. So, one of the purposes of the marmoset experiment is to see whether BSE behaves in the same way as scrapie.

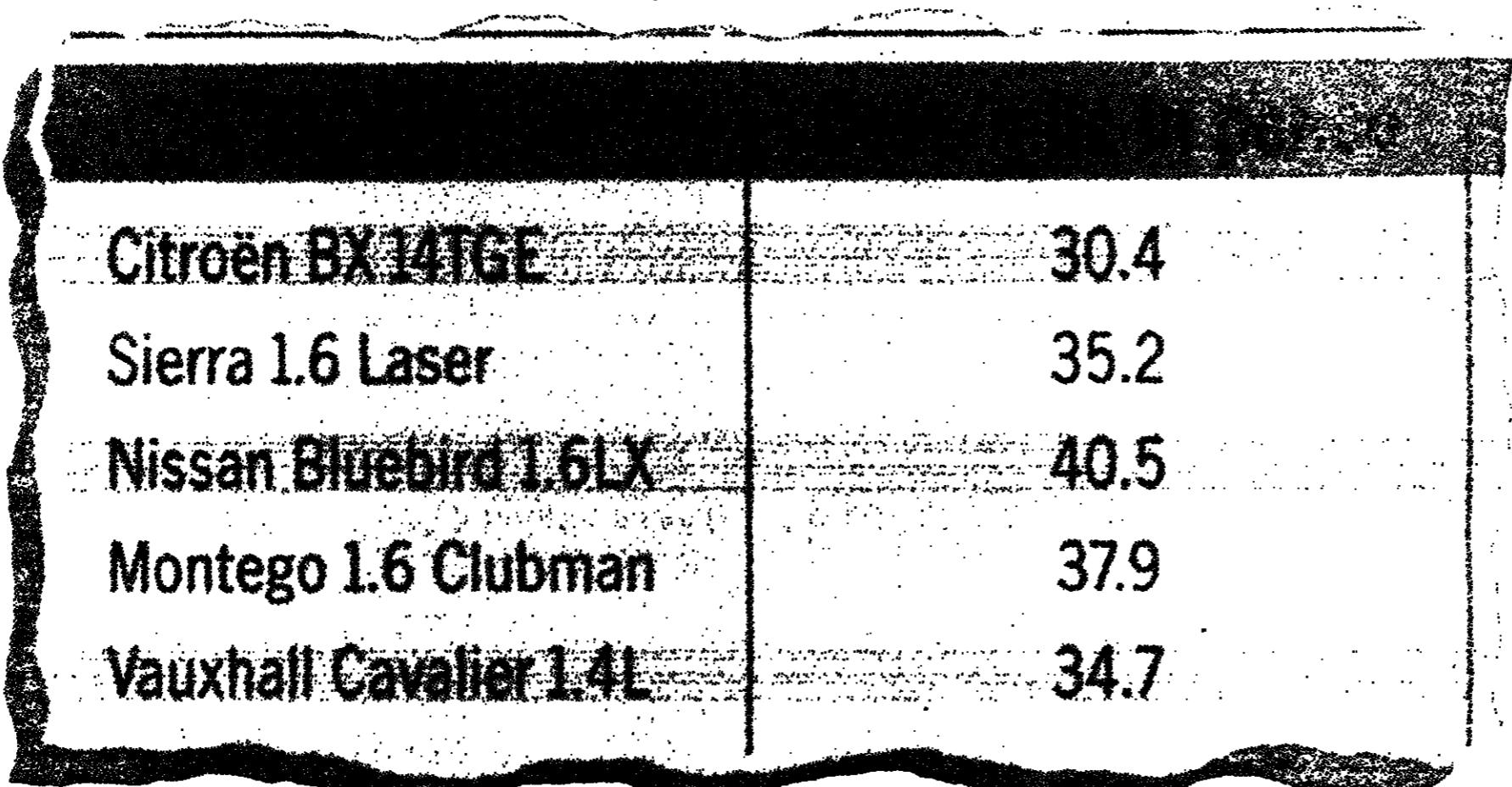
Dr Ridley said that laboratory work in Britain and the United States had established two broad categories of species susceptible to transmission of the scrapie agent.

She said: "What is important here is the species barrier. On the one hand, there are sheep, cattle, goats and mice, and, on the other, human beings, monkeys and hamsters. Transmission has been found to be relatively easy to achieve in laboratory conditions within each of these groups but much harder from one group to the other."

If Dr Ridley's marmosets were to contract both BSE and scrapie, it would suggest that the species barrier may not offer human beings as much protection as had been thought. As things stand, she sees any risk as slight. "I am still eating beef," she says.

Another expert on spongiform encephalopathy, Dr Bryan Matthews, a retired professor of clinical neurology at Oxford University, said yesterday that the only sure way to find out whether any BSE infection in beef could cross to humans would be the monitoring of the incidence of CJD over many years.

RUNNING COSTS.



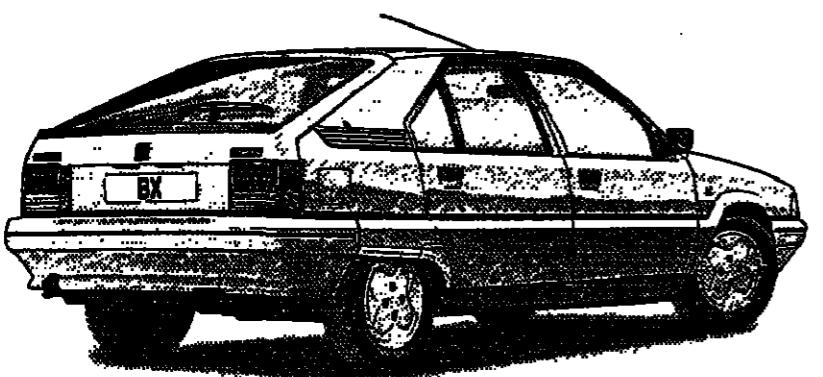
WHAT CAR?

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CITROËN BX



Lords press for language teaching in infant school

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

BRITISH schoolchildren will stand little chance of competing on equal terms within the European Community while there is a shortage of teachers, and an instinctive resistance at all levels of society to learning foreign languages, a House of Lords committee says today.

The peers recommend urgent action to encourage pupils of all abilities to learn at least one or two foreign languages from primary school age through to the end of their secondary school education.

In particular, the Lords European Communities committee demands that the attitude of British society towards modern foreign language learning must change. "The committee call on the Government to launch a campaign bringing together all strands of current European awareness advertising in the context of the completion of the internal market and uttering the death knell of the monoglot tradition of English society."

"Teachers and pupils, parents and politicians, employees and employers must all be made aware of the vital importance of modern foreign language learning as a means of communication and cross-cultural understanding and as an aid to business and overseas trade," it says.

The committee, chaired by Lady Lockwood, holds out little hope of improving foreign language education while there is a shortage of at least 1,750 qualified modern language teachers - the equivalent to 11 per cent - which is considered by peers to be a conservative estimate.

"The shortage of modern foreign language teachers in the UK has already reached crisis level and is likely to worsen," it says. "Urgent action is needed on the three main sources of complaint by teachers: status, conditions and pay." The committee recommends special schemes to encourage qualified teachers with children back to the

classroom by providing flexible working hours and the employment of qualified teachers from other EC nations.

The report also criticizes the Government's legislation preventing schools from charging for many outside activities which, teachers' organizations told the committee, is stopping exchange visits and school trips abroad.

The peers found that the number of pupils taking A level French, for example, has fallen by more than 10 per cent in eight years to 18,000. More girls than boys took language examinations.

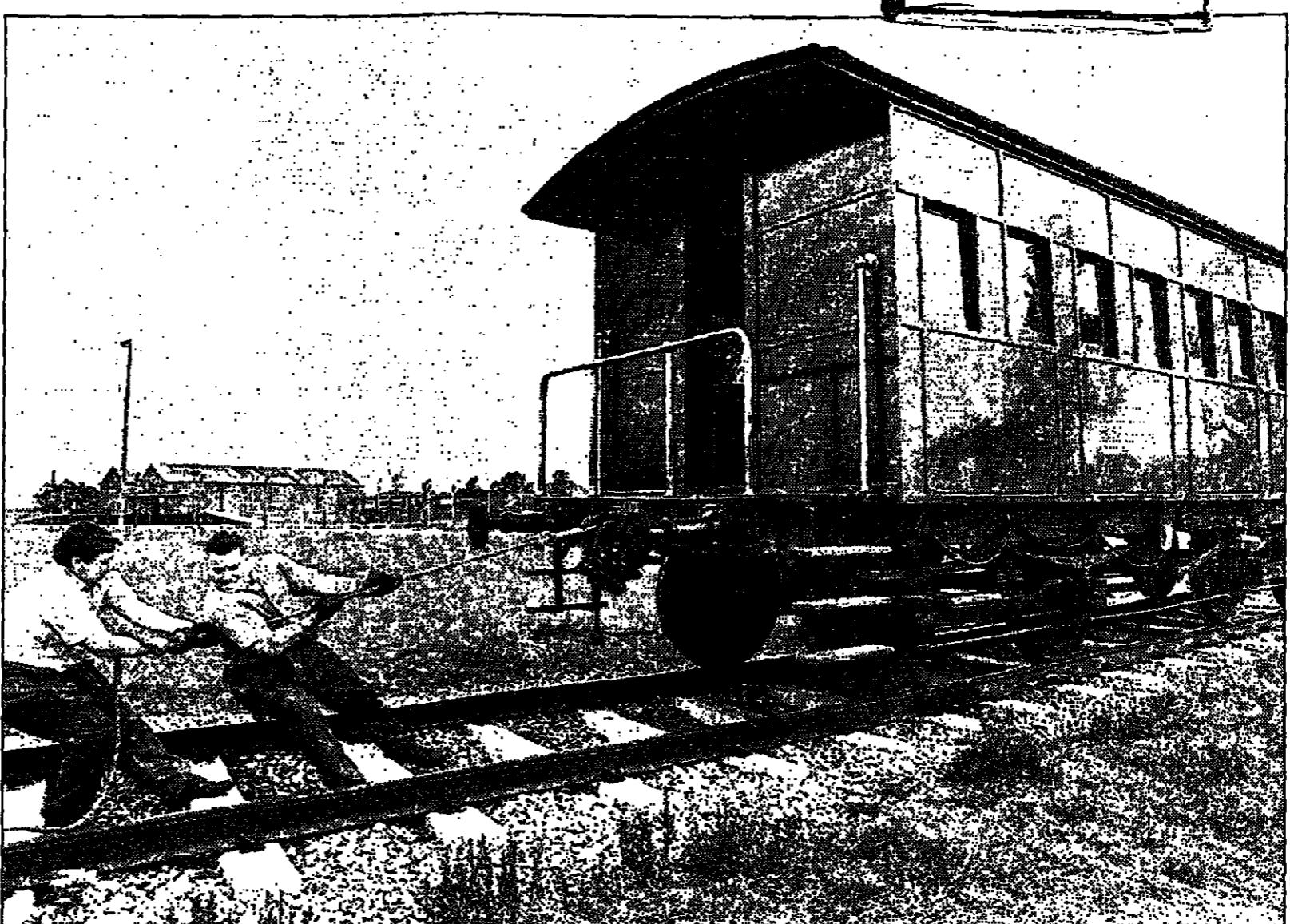
The committee concludes: "The UK stands out amongst the member states for its poor provision of modern foreign language teaching in the primary sector." There was widespread evidence that languages were learnt more easily and accents acquired more perfectly at a young age.

• A £3 million package of educational programmes intended to prepare British people for the language, business and consumer challenges posed by Europe and 1992 was launched yesterday by the BBC (Richard Evans writes).

The initiative coincides with a Gallup survey carried out for the BBC which shows that while 86 per cent of the British public think that European Community affairs are important for the UK, three out of four people do not feel well informed about what the Single European Market in 1992 means for Britain.

Radio and television programmes will range over languages, business and the effects of the single market on the individual. *You & I*, a television series of 10 programmes, each of 35 minutes, explores Britain's readiness for 1992.

European Schools and Languages Learning in UK Schools: House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities. 15th report (Stationery Office, £15.45)



Mr Trevor Robert (left) and Mr Kevin Rose hauling a carriage yesterday used by Kitchener in the Sudan campaigns of the 1890s. It is being transferred from a Ministry of Defence site in Shoebury Ness, Essex, to the Museum of Army Transport in Beverley, Humberside

TV campaign aims to lure teachers back to class

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

MR JOHN MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, yesterday defended a £2.2 million advertising campaign to recruit teachers.

Dismissing suggestions that the money should have been spent on improving teachers' pay, he said the advertisements would help to raise the standing of the teaching profession in the public eye.

"If we had put the money into teachers' pay it would have produced a minuscule effect. Criticism of this campaign is wholly misplaced. We would have deserved criticism if we had not done it."

The campaign, produced by the advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi, started with advertisements on TV South, Thames and Central Television before *News at Ten* last

night. Viewers saw pupils learning about chemistry and French from teachers who are clearly friendly and committed. The slogan for the campaign is "Teaching brings out the best in people".

There will also be a series of national newspaper advertisements featuring classroom photographs including a boy aged 14 gazing amorously at a girl companion. The caption says: "It's quite a challenge making fractional distillation more interesting than sex."

Mr MacGregor said: "There has never been a better time to become a teacher. The exciting developments of the GCSE and the National Curriculum provide a stimulating environment in which to work. People need to be aware of the professionalism

required and the job satisfaction to be gained from teaching. There is no doubt that it offers a challenging and rewarding career."

The minister said no target had been set for the number of people it was hoped the campaign would attract but its success would be carefully monitored. He believed the campaign would be welcomed by teachers.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, accused Mr MacGregor of promoting an "ivory towers" image of classroom life. He said: "It is ridiculous to suggest that teaching brings out the best in people. Any new teacher has to be a complete basterd for the first six months. The golden rule is not to smile at all for the first year in order to gain control. Only then can you afford to be friendly to the kids."

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, welcomed the campaign but added: "The Government can no longer claim that there is no problem of teacher recruitment in schools. I welcome the fact that they are trying to interest youngsters in teaching but it will take more than advertising to do that. Once the young people look at pay levels they will see that by the standards of ICI, Esso and IBM, teaching is very much an also-ran."

Mr Tony Cleaver, chief executive of IBM (UK) Ltd, said: "I am anxious to see this campaign succeed. It is absolutely essential that our young people get the highest quality education if Britain is to play its full part in the intensely competitive decade of the 1990s."

The launch of the campaign in London, which had been attacked earlier by the Labour Party as "glitz and tinsel", coincided with the publication of a report by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools on previous recruitment initiatives.

The inspectors said recruitment levels to teacher-training courses in technology, mathematics and physics had been disappointing in spite of two years of government initiatives designed to boost interest. Recruitment to courses in technology had been stronger than in the other subjects but physics did least well.

It added that the financial difficulties facing students embarking on post-graduate Certificate of Education courses and the inconvenient location of courses contributed to the low levels of recruitment.

Tories attacked by Lord Joseph over child benefit

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A POWERFUL assault on the Government's record on the family and a call for the reintroduction of child tax allowances is to be published today by one of the Prime Minister's closest allies.

Lord Joseph, the former Cabinet minister and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's mentor during her early years as party leader, accuses the Conservatives of "effective discrimination" against the family through tax changes and freezing child benefit.

He is also critical of the decision to give tax concessions for childcare to working mothers while ignoring those who stay at home when their children are young. This is not a "balanced" treatment of the family to the top of the political agenda and ensure it is a prime theme in the next Tory manifesto.

He urges the Government to give one-earner couples a tax allowance equal to that enjoyed by families with two incomes, an idea dropped by the Government in its introduction of separate taxation of husband and wife.

Lord Joseph said that the family is at risk of disintegrating under such pressures as casual sex, rising levels of divorce and separation, a "huge" abortion rate, and child and drug abuse. The Government has added a financial "squeeze" to the culturally and spiritually hostile framework in which children are being reared.

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fiscal discouragement of doing so. If we did, fewer young might commit crime, more young might learn well in both their homes and their schools, and cycles of disadvantage might wane," he concludes.

Lord Joseph's intervention in a paper published by the Centre for Policy Studies, the think-tank he co-founded with Mrs Thatcher in the mid-1970s, is part of a campaign by the centre for the restoration of child tax allowances, scrapped by the last Labour government, to run alongside existing child benefit.

The proposal is endorsed by Lord Joseph, but his paper, which has been given to the Prime Minister, is also part of a wider move by Tory policymakers to prop up the state of the family to the top of the political agenda and ensure it is a prime theme in the next Tory manifesto.

Unlike other Western European countries, Britain has failed to maintain tax and benefit systems designed to ensure that the living standards of families are roughly equivalent to those of their childless counterparts. In 1988, spending on each person in families with dependent children fell from £73.74 a week when the mother was working to £54.31 a week when she stayed at home.

The White House indicated that a "good deal" of the report's 60 recommendations would be implemented, but refused to comment on the call for pre-emptive strikes against terrorist organizations.

Mr James Busey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, accepted that "the system was flawed, mistakes were made" and announced the creation of a working group to analyse the commission's recommendations for an overhaul of his agency.

Threat to airlines flouting security

AIRLINES could be grounded if they fail to comply with Department of Transport security directives under new powers expected to be introduced soon.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, said airlines had been asked to put forward proposals for security checks on all hold baggage. "I read that some of them were thinking of not cooperating. When the Act is in place, I will have the power to give directions. If airlines don't observe them, I'll have the power to ground them. Whether people agree or not, it will have to be done."

Mr Parkinson was speaking at the opening of the £110 million Terminal Three redevelopment at Heathrow airport, the day after a presidential commission condemned security lapses by Pan Am and the American Federal Aviation Administration before and after the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in December 1988.

The commission report recommended that the United States launch pre-emptive strikes against terrorist groups but Mr Parkinson opposed such a strategy, while declining to comment on the report until he had studied it. He said security arrangements at Heathrow were being tightened, with all 55,000 airport staff having their every movement checked. "We have extended the search into baggage on American airlines going to America to 100 per cent. We've increased the inspection of baggage on other flights. We now take random checks of flights and take a proportion of baggage off flights. We have tried to learn the lessons of Lockerbie, but as the various investigations come to their conclusion and report, if more needs to be done, it will be done."

Mr Parkinson promised relatives of the victims that there would be a full public fatal accident inquiry besides the Air Accident Board investigation now under way.

In the United States meanwhile, Pan Am took out full-page newspaper advertisements to counter the report's criticisms. The advertisements proposed a six-point plan of action under which governments would assume direct responsibility for airline security, agree on uniform international standards and accelerate research into counter-terrorist technology. The airline claimed that "before, during and after the crisis, we put forth every effort humanly possible".

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DIRECTIONS

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR
28th 29th & 30th June 1990 Grand Hall Olympia

MR MICHAEL Mates, the Conservative MP for Hampshire East, yesterday strongly denied there was any conflict of interest between his business activities and his chairmanship of the cross-party Commons select committee on defence.

He also dismissed an allegation that the Americans had complained to the Ministry of Defence about the pressure and lobbying activities of a chairman of a select committee.

Denouncing Mr Tam Dalyell, a Labour backbencher, for making the claim under parliamentary privilege, Mr Mates said it was without foundation. He said it was alleged that last September he was in the Pentagon in Wash-

ington lobbying for a public relations company. In the Register of Members' Interests Mr Mates is listed as a partner in Chesham Consultancy.

Mr Mates said the claim was untrue and that the firm had not started trading until January 1990. He said it was a Labour member of the committee who had suggested they seek memoranda from simulator companies in the UK. At his instigation, the four manufacturers were asked to make submissions.

He said he had advised one of the companies over the past four years, but had no contact with them over the preparation of their memorandum.

AN OPEN verdict was recorded yesterday on a woman who drowned in the swimming pool at her French villa after the coroner had heard that the lover, with whom she had quarrelled and in whose favour her will may have been forged, had refused to come from France to give evidence.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, said there was little evidence that Mrs Patricia Simons, of Park Village East, Camden Town, north-west London, had been murdered. He could see no need for police investigations to be pursued further.

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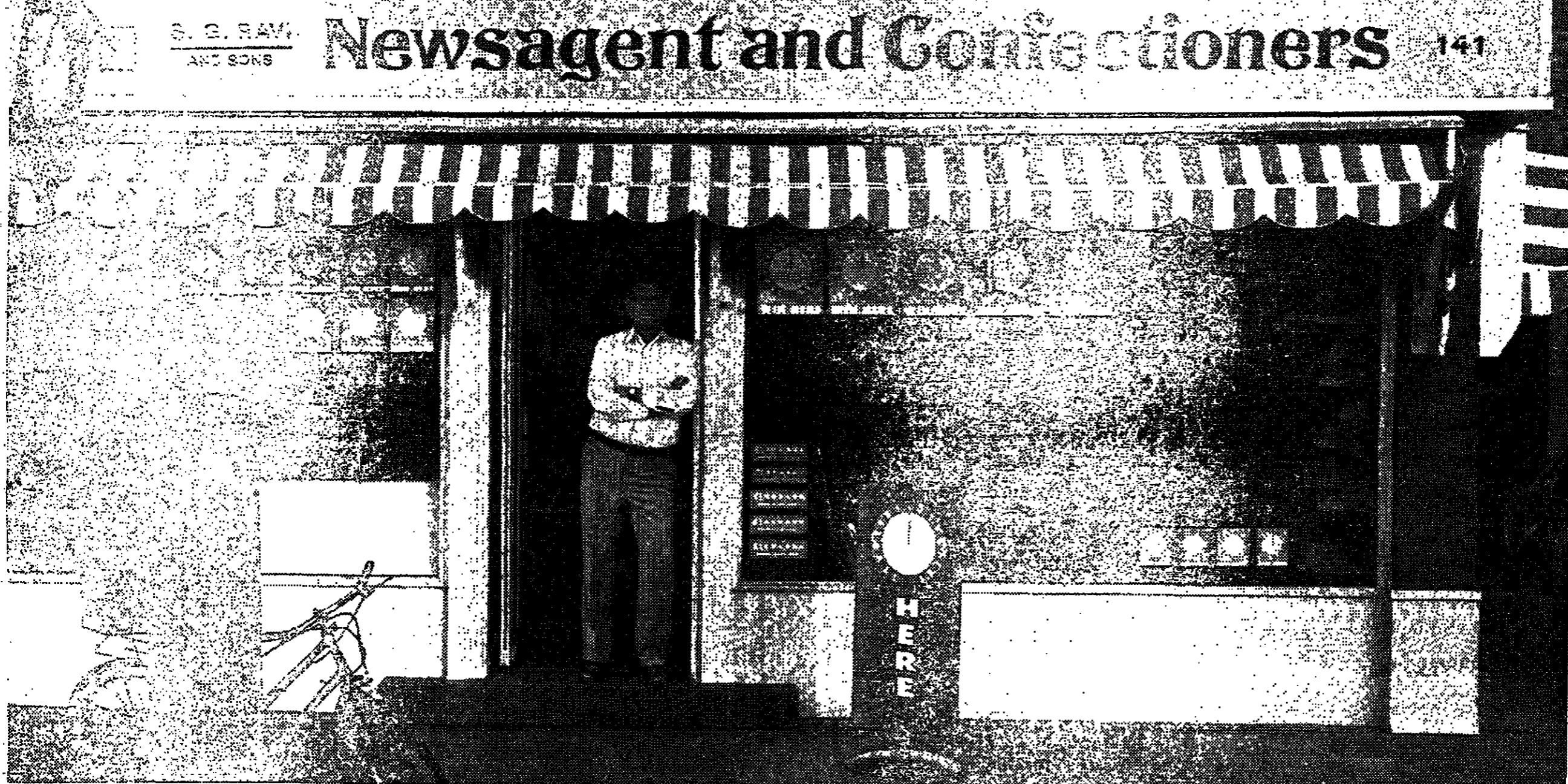
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Peers head for clash on war crimes

Aids risk higher for females

By Thomson, PA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Peers head for clash on war crimes

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government is to consider overriding the House of Lords if it throws out the Bill allowing suspected Nazi war criminals to be brought to trial in Britain.

Senior Cabinet ministers are prepared to risk a constitutional clash by reintroducing the Bill and forcing it through under the Parliament Act of 1911 during the next session of Parliament. There is a possibility that the Lords will reject the Bill when it comes up for second reading on June 4. If so, senior ministers are making plain that the Government will then consider invoking the Parliament Act.

Under it a Bill can be passed without the agreement of the House of Lords if it is passed twice by the Commons and rejected twice by the Lords in successive sessions of Parliament.

The Act stipulates that a year must elapse between the second reading of the Bill in the Commons in the first of these sessions and the completion of its passage through the Commons in the second.

The Bill was given a second reading in the Commons by 273 votes to 60 on March 19. If the Parliament Act procedure were used, therefore, it could not become law until the spring of next year.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, and other senior ministers believe that the size of the Commons majority, on a free vote, gives the Government the authority to reintroduce the Bill if necessary.

Ministers have refrained from making public statements about the Government's intentions to avoid antagonizing peers before the June vote. Mr Waddington and his colleagues are, however, anxious that legislation for which considerable preparation has taken place and for which there is democratic support in the Commons, should go through. If the Bill is lost for this session the Cabinet will be urged by some senior ministers to reintroduce it at the start of the next session.

Mr Waddington has announced that a team of nine police officers will investigate the cases against the suspected war criminals. They will follow up evidence to the Hetherington-Chalmers inquiry into war crimes which confirmed there is sufficient evidence for the prospect of fair trials in Britain.

If the Cabinet decides to reintroduce the Bill next session the clear hope of ministers will be that the Lords will back down rather than frustrate the will of the Commons.

No Act has been passed under the Parliament Act for the past 40 years but the last Labour government twice reintroduced Bills in subsequent sessions after they had been rejected by the Lords. On both occasions the Lords backed down and allowed them through.

Aids risk higher for females

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

WOMEN are twice as much at risk of contracting the Aids virus through sex as men and the number of cases among British women has doubled in the last year, a conference organized in London by the National Aids Trust and attended by the Princess of Wales was told yesterday.

Dr Anne Johnson, of the Middlesex Hospital, London, a leading researcher, said 117 women were known to have developed Aids in Britain and more than 1,300 others have been recorded as carrying the virus.

Studies showed that up to 30 per cent of women having sex with an infected man became infected, while up to only 13 per cent of men became HIV positive after sex with an infected woman.

The reasons why women appear to be more vulnerable were not fully understood, she said. "We are seeing the second wave of the Aids epidemic in Britain. It is following the same pattern as in the United States where it began among homosexuals and moved into heterosexuals, primarily through intravenous drug abuse."

British football supporters travelling to the World Cup in Italy next month should take condoms with them, Dr Judy Bury of Lothian Health Board, Edinburgh, told the conference. "There is a lot of HIV infection in Italy and there will be many young men going to the World Cup who have HIV and do not know it."

Police ask for help to identify poll tax rioters



A man of 5ft 10-11in, with brown hair which was long at the back. He was wearing stained or greasy trousers and was seen at the south-east corner of Trafalgar Square



A man of about 6ft with brown bushy hair, wearing a long, green waxed jacket, shirt with a prominent skull motif, and black trousers



A man in his early 20s with short dark brown hair, which was long at the back. He wore four ear-rings, beige trousers and a black jacket



A man in his 20s, height about 5ft 10ins, with a skinhead haircut and a gunmetal-colour jacket. The police are not concerned with anyone else in these pictures



A woman of about 5ft 5ins in her late teens or early 20s. She was seen outside South Africa House

Britain vows to limit size of CO₂ discharge

From Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent, Bergen

BRITAIN will have a comprehensive national strategy within six months for controlling emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the gas from coal-fired power-stations and vehicles mainly responsible for global warming, Mr David Trippier, Minister for Environment and Countryside, said yesterday.

The commitment, which will affect almost every citizen, is likely to mean campaigns for saving domestic and industrial energy and improving vehicle efficiency or even restricting traffic growth.

Mr Trippier said the commitment would have "enormous implications" for energy and transport policy. He spoke of "dramatic" policy changes and said it would cause "a lot of pain and anguish". But there is a problem with the climate. We must respond, and respond we will."

Mr Trippier told British journalists at the end of the Bergen conference on sustainable development that the Government would "definitely" fix a target for stabilization of CO₂ emissions

before the end of the World Climate Conference which finishes in Geneva on November 6. Achieving the target would involve a comprehensive national strategy, he said.

Since the Noordwijk international meeting on climate change last November, Britain has been committed to CO₂ stabilization by 2000. The crucial question of the level at which this should be done – the level, for example, of 1990 – has been left open, and until yesterday there was no indication of when it would be decided.

Mr Trippier gave no hint of any level the Government may have in mind, but some European Community countries favour "present levels" or even the level of 1998, to be achieved by the end of the century. Adopting a target for controlling CO₂ implies an end to the unrestricted growth of both the electricity industry and the road transport sector.

Asked about the possible effect on the Government's electricity privatization plans, Mr Trippier referred the matter to Mr John Wakeham,

Mr Trippier was asked about a recent statement by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, that he did not personally think substantial cuts in CO₂ emissions from motor vehicles could be achieved "in the short term," by which he meant by the year 2000. Mr Trippier said: "We will have to address the problem of transport in the White Paper."

The costs of a global warming strategy, which a few countries such as The Netherlands have adopted, are likely to be considerable. Mr Trippier said that the question of costs was being studied. He added: "We have never said that it would be cost-free."

He made no reference to fiscal or other measures the Government might consider to restrict, for example, movements of cars or to encourage energy efficiency.

CO₂ emissions from motor vehicles, which represent 18 per cent of the British CO₂ total, have risen steeply in recent years from 21 million tonnes in 1982 to 28 million tonnes in 1988.

Emissions from power stations, which are the largest sector with 33 per cent of the total, have stayed steady or declined in recent years to their present figure of 52 million tonnes. They are set to rise.

The inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, the body sponsored by the United Nations studying the possible consequences of the greenhouse effect for the world community, is due to publish its first report a week tomorrow.

DETECTIVES investigating the poll tax riot in central London at the end of March have gathered more than 2,500 photographs of suspects taken during disorder which led to 1,800 reported crimes and damage estimated to cost over £2 million (Stewart Tendler writes). A total of 452 arrests have been made.

Det Chief Supt Roy Ramm disclosed the progress made by the 134 members of the Scotland Yard investigation team as he appealed for help in identifying four men and a woman photographed by police during the riots. The five were seen in Whitehall or Trafalgar Square.

Mr Ramm said photographs issued last weekend had led to the identification of half the people shown and two arrests. The police were now

seeking others seen in those pictures, including a woman. The women in the new photographs was outside South Africa House where there was disorder.

Asked whether investigations had shown any organized group behind the trouble, Mr Ramm said no evidence had emerged to prove organization. However, there was evidence to show that some incidents were arranged, including the sit-down in Whitehall, opposite Downing Street, which became a flashpoint. Analysis of the arrests made by the police shows that 37 detainees had some affiliation with animal rights organizations. Mr Ramm pointed out that they might also have links with other groups.

He said the Yard's investigation was concentrating on identifying those involved in a number of flashpoint incidents. It would be unrealistic to say the police would arrest everyone involved on the day.

So far the charges range from attempted murder for a man accused of thrusting an 8ft steel rod through the front section of a police van, to theft, criminal damage and public order breaches. Minor cases have already been dealt with by courts.

The collection of pictures is at a south London police station and all officers who were on duty on the day are being called to look at them. The police are also in contact with other forces across the country for information on groups such as squatters and travellers.

Riot jail gets new inmates

Women partners still rare in City

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

WOMEN are still scarce among the top echelons of the big City firms and most employers make no concessions to part-time work or job-sharing, according to a survey by the City of London Law Society.

The report shows that 96 per cent of firms replying to its questionnaire have fewer than 10 women partners, although 77 per cent had equal numbers of male and female articled clerks.

Mrs Karen Richardson, a member of the survey committee, said this "would suggest that the numbers of females are on the increase from the younger end of the market and the proportion of females is accordingly rising as against males."

She said that arrangements in the City were probably behind those in many provincial firms. "You have to bear in mind that the City is the last bastion of anything that is going; you would not expect it to be in the forefront of pioneering special working arrangements."

The survey also showed that larger firms tended to be more flexible towards women: 15 per cent of small firms have part-time assistant solicitors compared with 45 per cent of larger firms. Creches were not particularly popular, with only 11 firms favouring the provision of creche facilities, although 24 respondents said they would be prepared to give some financial support.

Despite the growing number of women entering the profession, the City still remains slow to offer working mothers benefits such as flexible hours or part-time work.

At least 61 per cent of firms had no special working arrangements for women and where they did exist, they often did not extend to partners. Nearly 40 per cent of respondents provided part-time working arrangements for assistant solicitors but only 13 per cent did so for partners.

Only 3.2 per cent had any job-sharing arrangements.

Mrs Richardson, who re-

cently retired as chairman of the Association of Women Solicitors, said that despite efforts made by some City firms, in general they still had some way to go to meet the needs of women partners.

"There is still this idea that it is all right for assistant solicitors to work part-time, but that partners must be there every minute of the day. It is a complete misconception; the work that the assistant solicitor and partner do is the same kind of work."

She said that arrangements in the City were probably behind those in many provincial firms. "You have to bear in mind that the City is the last bastion of anything that is going; you would not expect it to be in the forefront of pioneering special working arrangements."

The survey also showed that larger firms tended to be more flexible towards women: 15 per cent of small firms have part-time assistant solicitors compared with 45 per cent of larger firms. Creches were not particularly popular, with only 11 firms favouring the provision of creche facilities, although 24 respondents said they would be prepared to give some financial support.

Amnesty International has offered the Law Society half the places in its London creche. The society welcomed the offer of the eight places.

Change of heart
Bournemouth council has passed a motion against suing Leeds Council for damage by rioting Leeds United football supporters saying that it "does not regard the city of Leeds and the great majority of its people as responsible for the action of football hooligans".

Butlin's all-clear

A baby and a teenage girl who had meningitis while at Butlin's Somerset West in Minehead, had different strains of the virus and were probably infected before visiting the camp, Somerset Health Authority said yesterday.

Murder inquiry

Gypsies attending their annual fair at Appleby, Cumbria, next month will be questioned by police about the unsolved murder of a baby boy whose charred and legless body was found on a tip at Millom, Cumbria, in December.

Rescue dog

Mrs Fiona Levitt, aged 29, of Cilgerran, Dyfed, was pulled to safety by Cassius, a Rottweiler, after she floundered in the freezing Teifi yesterday.

Up and running

Two early-19th-century marble statues, each worth £5,000, have been stolen from the grounds of Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire. Police believe the thieves used lifting gear and a van to escape with the figures.

Upland areas 'in peril' from man

By Kerry Gill

THE uplands of Britain, including moorland, woods, high peaks and plateaux, are in jeopardy and in need of urgent help, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which is to campaign for their defence.

The society says that more than one million hectares have been planted with alien conifers since the Second World War, that huge moorland tracts have been converted for grazing and that new roads and leisure facilities are damaging mountain areas.

Launching an appeal for £750,000 to help fund the campaign, the society said that it would present alternative proposals for forestry and farming to ministers, suggesting better upland management, and inform the public about the threats to upland areas and tackle the persecution of birds of prey.

Dr Art Lance, the society's conservation officer, said: "For centuries, man and wildlife have lived in the uplands side by side, but in recent decades exploitation has brought them into conflict. Without immediate help, some of our country's most beautiful and important wildlife areas will be lost for ever."

He said that the uplands supported almost half of Britain's internationally important populations of birds of prey. These included 25 per cent of Europe's peregrine falcons and 15 per cent of Europe's golden eagles. Many of these birds were at risk from illegal poisoning and trapping.

Decisions on the level of funding by both Bristol and Avon have been deferred while the implications of charge capping are assessed.

Mr Paul Unwin, artistic director of the Bristol Old Vic, where the British premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Luckiest Man in the World* opens tonight, is unable to plan its programme for this year because both authorities which provide it with vital funding, Bristol City Council and Avon County Council, are charge-capped.

Last year the theatre faced the prospect of closure because of a funding shortfall of £280,000.

theatre contributed £800,000 from the box office to its own costs. In 1989-90, Bristol gave £225,000, an increase of 12.5 per cent, and Avon £55,000, up by 25 per cent, but their allocations for 1990-91 are not to be made known to the theatre at least until after the two councils' appeals against capping are heard next month. The Arts Council drastically cut funding three years ago to encourage the local authorities to bring contributions closer to parity.

After the local authority increases and a glowing report from an assessment of the company, the Arts Council increased its grant for 1990-91 by 18 per cent, from £423,600 to £500,000. This will not be affected.

but the prospect of diminished local authority funding could affect the Arts Council subsidy, normally calculated in line with other grants, for the following year.

"The loss of £200,000 would be a very serious matter for any company," Mr Unwin said. "I'm trying not to contemplate the loss of the whole amount, but apart from the programme itself the delay in knowing puts us way behind in marketing and sounding out sponsors."

"Despite magnificent box offices – up to 98 per cent for our *Othello* this season – and very high morale, funding for regional theatre is more perilous than it has ever been."

"I could repeat Sir Peter Hall's view and say there was a willing and

Poll tax veto threatens revival at oldest working theatre

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

BRITAIN'S oldest working theatre, barely recovered from last year's financial difficulties which forced it to close its studio theatre, faces more funding uncertainty, this time due to community charge capping.

The Bristol Old Vic, where the British premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Luckiest Man in the World* opens tonight, is unable to plan its programme for this year because both authorities which provide it with vital funding, Bristol City Council and Avon County Council, are charge-capped.

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Warning for the Royal Mail

There are no plans at present to end the letter monopoly operated by the Royal Mail, but in the event of serious disruption the Government would consider suspending it, Mr Eric Firth, Under Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, said in a Commons written reply.

The letter monopoly was a privilege and not a right, he said. Options were kept under review.

He added: "The Government and the Post Office remain fully committed to the existence of a national letter service available to everyone, including those in rural areas, at a reasonable and uniform tariff."

Legal pledge on consumers

Mr Eric Firth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs, undertook during Commons questions to examine any evidence that the six-month time limit on bringing prosecutions against sellers of dangerous goods was causing problems for trading standards officers.

New business increase

The net number of businesses registered for VAT last year was 84,374, Mr Richard Ryden, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written Commons reply. There had been 261,783 new registrations and 177,409 deregistrations. The net increase was more than 3.5 times higher than in 1980.

8% rise in exports

Exports, excluding oil and erratic items, were 8 per cent higher in the first quarter of this year than in the corresponding period last year, Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a Commons written reply.

Census plan for homeless

Next year's census will include a count of people of all ages who are sleeping rough or in temporary accommodation, Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Housing and Planning, said in a Commons written reply.

More in work

Full-time employment in Great Britain rose by 2.5 per cent last year and part-time employment rose by 4 per cent, Mr Patrick Relfkind, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister; Employment Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (3): Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, report stage. Law reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, report stage, second day.

Polluter will pay for Devon coastal oil spillage

THE polluter will have to pay for the whole cost of the damage done by the oil pollution which came ashore in south Devon early yesterday from the tanker Rosebay. Community charge-payers of the area will not have to meet any of the cost.

That assurance was given in the Commons by Mr Patrick McLoughlin, Under Secretary of State for Transport. He said that the watchkeeper on the Dunpone Marie, the Brizham trawler involved in Saunday's collision, had not seen the tanker and took no evasive action. Visibility had been three to four miles.

Mr McLoughlin said the damage to the port side of the Rosebay had led to the spillage of 1,100 tons of crude oil. The master had immediate-

ly minimized damage by transferring oil from the damaged tank to other tanks. The leak had ceased within 90 minutes.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch was investigating the collision.

"Their initial findings are that it was the duty of the fishing vessel under international collision regulations to give way, but her watchkeeper did not see the tanker and made no alteration of course.

The tanker took evasive action, but it did not prevent the collision. Visibility at the time was approximately three to four miles."

The dispersant spraying operations

which had continued on Sunday had dispersed three-quarters of the spill oil, but the remaining quarter had

TANKER COLLISION

emulsified with seawater to form an estimated 700 tonnes of what the industry called "mousse" which did not respond to dispersant.

With natural breakdown, that had been reduced to 400 tonnes, but without the spraying the original spill would have emulsified into 3,500 tonnes of mousse which would have had to be recovered at sea in a difficult, slow process or have had to be cleared from beaches.

Beach cleaning had begun on the difficult and rocky coastline. Much of the rocky area would be inaccessible, however.

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams,

Steen's community charge-payers. That is in line with government policy that the polluter pays for the damage he does.

He said that within two weeks they would recover and restore as well as they could some of the worst affected areas. Helicopters would be considered if appropriate.

Mr Simon Hughes, for the Liberal Democrats, asked for an assurance that there would be a prosecution if there had been an offence. He said that the reality was that action had not been sufficient and had not stopped environmental damage.

Mr McLoughlin said that the comment was typical of Mr Hughes. To have acted within two hours had been very effective.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C)

said that many detergent companies were owned by oil companies who made a profit from cleaning up pollution which they created. The minister should look up a solution invented some time ago by one of Mr Adley's constituents, who had been driven out of business because oil companies wanted to go on selling detergents.

Mr McLoughlin said that he did not accept the theory that oil companies caused pollution to get benefit from cleaning it up.

Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset, C) asked whether the insurance would cover the cost if it was shown that the tanker was at no fault.

Mr McLoughlin said that he would not apportion blame while the investigation was in progress.

'Spineless' ministers attacked on steel mill

RAVENS CRAIG

MINISTERS would seek to persuade British Steel to reconsider its proposal to close the hot strip mill at the Ravenscraig steelworks during the first half of next year, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons yesterday.

Any approach, however, would have to be based on commercial grounds and not merely on emotional or political grounds.

Mr Donald Dewar, shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, asserted that there was great bitterness on the way that the workforce had been betrayed by the company, and dismay because of the inactivity and "spineless" approach of ministers.

Mr Rifkind said that he was interested in Mr Dewar's belief that there were strong commercial reasons for closing the hot strip mill, including the strength of the present market for its products, the competitiveness of the workforce and the superb way that the workers had responded to requests made to them.

If there was to be a prospect of British Steel's reconsidering its decision, the case had to be put on commercial grounds and not merely on emotional or political grounds.

There had been various times in the House in the past few weeks when questions of contact with British Steel had been raised. That had been in regard to the question of new investment, particularly concerning the Dalzell plate mill. As he had indicated then, the Government had been preparing, and had already presented to British Steel, its own paper on the desirability of considering Dalzell for any future plate investment.

"For from delaying, these matters have been actively promoted in the last few months."

The future of Ravenscraig was of crucial importance to the economy of Lanarkshire because of the employment implications if there were to be a closure. There were significant implications for the wider Scottish economy.

However, 98 per cent of Ravenscraig's products went not to steel users in Scotland but were exported to customers elsewhere in the United Kingdom or overseas, and the Scottish economy was stronger and more broadly based than it had been 20 or 30 years ago. Its economy was sufficiently robust



to deal with any problems of the kind Mr Dewar had mentioned.

He emphasized, however, that any employer with thousands of workers in one particular part of Scotland had a particular role and responsibility.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Scotland, said that the Secretary of State should have foreseen the closure coming when the privatization of British Steel was first mooted.

Mr Rifkind said that at the time of privatization, British Steel had given a guarantee for the hot strip mill which had expired last year, so the mill had been in operation more than two years after the assurances it gave at the time of privatization.

At the time of the flotation, the British Steel prospects indicated that it would be prepared to consider alternative private sector purchase if it had no continuing need for the asset.

Mr Rifkind said that he had contacted the leaders of the shop stewards and would be meeting them in the near future.

Mr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that the Ravenscraig workforce would fight the decision and the Opposition would fight alongside them. It seemed that the Sec-

retary of State did not have the stomach for a fight.

Was it correct that Mr Rifkind had not met the chairman of British Steel since October last year and was that not a pathetic reflection on his attitude?

Mr Rifkind said that Dr Reid would do better not to make political points, but seek to cooperate with those wanting to see British Steel reconsider its

Mr Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that Mr Rifkind's plea for people to unite in a campaign behind him to try to save Ravenscraig rang hollow against the background of his distinct failure to address the issue over the past months.

Mr Richard Holt (Langbaurgh, C) said that he was concerned at what had happened, but Corby which had had its steel plant closed now had suffered its losses and was now booming and last week Consort announced a new and exciting venture, including an industrial park. "We should stop looking backwards and start looking forward."

• The closure was raised at question time when Mrs Ewing said that Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, had not addressed the extreme anger and bitterness felt in Scotland at the despicable and disgraceful announcement.

It was not just the loss of 770 jobs at issue; the heart was being torn out of the community in central Scotland and the core was being removed from the Scottish economy.

Mr Hogg said that during 1979 and 1980 British Steel had lost, in today's terms, £3.359 million and output per man-hour had been 160 tonnes. From being bottom of the league, the United Kingdom had now risen to third ranking, with 347 tonnes per man-hour.

Mr Gordon Brown, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that Mr Hogg should be ashamed to come before the House as the "do-nothing" minister who had simply walked away from his responsibilities to the steel industry.

Cases of theft, attempted suicide, broken homes, child prostitution and worse crimes were on record as a result of addiction to amusement machines.

Mr Redwood agreed and added that, even now, the Labour Party could not agree on the importance of the reforms and was still threatening them in its new policy.

Mr Redwood said that as many as 1.3 million children, of the five million in the 10 to 16 age group, were spending money on machines which gave prizes.

Of those, at least 250,000 could be gambling in arcades

Pledge on cars built in Britain

CARS manufactured in Britain by Japanese companies should be treated as British and allowed free access to the single European market, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons. He said he had used "strong words" to emphasize the point to the European Commission.

Last year, 1,299,000 cars had been produced in the United Kingdom, he said. With the present investment in prospect, it was estimated that two million would be produced here by the mid-1990s. That would overtake the position inherited by this Government from Labour by a factor of more than two.

Mr Michael Grylls (Surrey North West, C) said that the increase in production was dependent on the cars having free entry to the continental market. Mr Ridley had taken a robust line on the matter, but would he tell MPs when it would be resolved?

Mr Ridley said that, at present, British-manufactured cars, manufactured by whatever company, were allowed free circulation in the European Community. "We intend to maintain that position."

Mr Douglas Henderson, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that proposals by the European Commission indicated that cars produced in Sunderland, Derby and Swindon would be counted as part of the Japanese quota during a transitional period.

How did he intend to ensure that cars made in those places would be classified as British?

Mr Ridley said that he had used strong words on the subject to the European Commission, the Spanish, the French and the Italians.

He had told them there would be no question but that these cars would have free circulation in Europe.

"I believe that this matter will be resolved soon and entirely in our favour."

Mr Robert Dunn (Dartford, C) said during earlier exchanges: "We do not get free and fair trade with the Empire of Japan. Will he tell them that unless they mend their ways, in terms of economic warfare we will declare war?"

Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, said that the average tariff on industrial products imported into Japan was substantially lower than on those imported into the European Community.

There had been isolated problems with products such as whisky, but that had been resolved. Japan was not a bad trading partner and their investments in Britain were warmly welcomed. It would be wrong to jeopardize that by ill-chosen words.

Mr Lewis Moonie, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, asked what exactly were the figures for the balance of trade with Japan last year.

Mr Redwood: Minus £4.8 billion (Labour laughter).

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) said that the growing strength of the British car industry was entirely due to the tremendous change in industrial relations as a result of the legislation of the past 12 years.

Mr Redwood agreed and added that, even now, the Labour Party could not agree on the importance of the reforms and was still threatening them in its new policy.

Home Office figures showed that as many as 1.3 million children, of the five million in the 10 to 16 age group, were spending money on machines which gave prizes.

Of those, at least 250,000 could be gambling in arcades

Labour wants more tax help for nurseries

FINANCE BILL

child care policy to maximize choice and flexibility for working women and to maintain those standards. Labour was committed to such a policy, and the Opposition's amendment must be seen in that context.

Experience showed that, unless measures were taken to encourage employers to provide facilities for employees to take up, the hoped-for expansion in child care provision would not take place. Such expansion would be for the benefit of children and the economy.

Mrs Teresa Gorman (Billeray, C) said that she had some sympathy with the amendment because it was an almost straight crib from a 10-minute-rule Bill she had introduced. That had been welcomed by the unions, including the NUT.

Her only quibble with the Bill was that it limited the opportunities for employers to provide a workplace nursery to the workplace itself. The Bill ought to be extended to allow small businesses to combine to provide nursery places. That would stimulate the growth of new nurseries and stimulate the labour force available to small businesses.

That would cost the Government about £25 million a year, but that would come back to the Treasury from increased economic activity through more women going to work and from the tax rates.

There was nothing new about a married woman with children going out to work to help to supplement the family income, but the society had waited and the type of work available and the changing status of women over the past 50 years had meant that many chose to carry on some form of paid work outside the home.

It was a pity that so many women with young children had to be out of the career market for 10 years or so, because it was then hard to pick up again, especially in scientific work, because things changed and developed at such a speed.

Fiscal measures were not the best, and certainly not the only, way of providing the best levels of child care. There must be a comprehensive

Amusement arcade Bill introduced

CHILDREN

unaccompanied by parents, friends or adults.

Despite a code of practice, he said, arrangements designed to discourage under-16s from taking part were being flouted and that, he believed, was why the legislation he proposed was necessary.

The facts had called into question the view taken by the Government that a change in the law was unwarranted. The main issue was the question of access to these arcades by children, many of whom were playing truant from school.

The Amusement Machines (Protection of Children) Bill was given a formal first reading. It stands little chance of making further progress.

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WHEN THE TIME COMES
THE TIMES

Leading article, page 15

Benn onslaught on NEC paper

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S new campaigning document is deeply ideological, backward-looking and shallow, Mr Tony Benn said yesterday.

Mr Benn, a member of Labour's national executive, said it was the most ideological document he had ever read because it set out a philosophical anti-socialist stance.

The document gave minimal commitment to three groups: it promised the City of London that nothing Labour did would damage its search for profit;

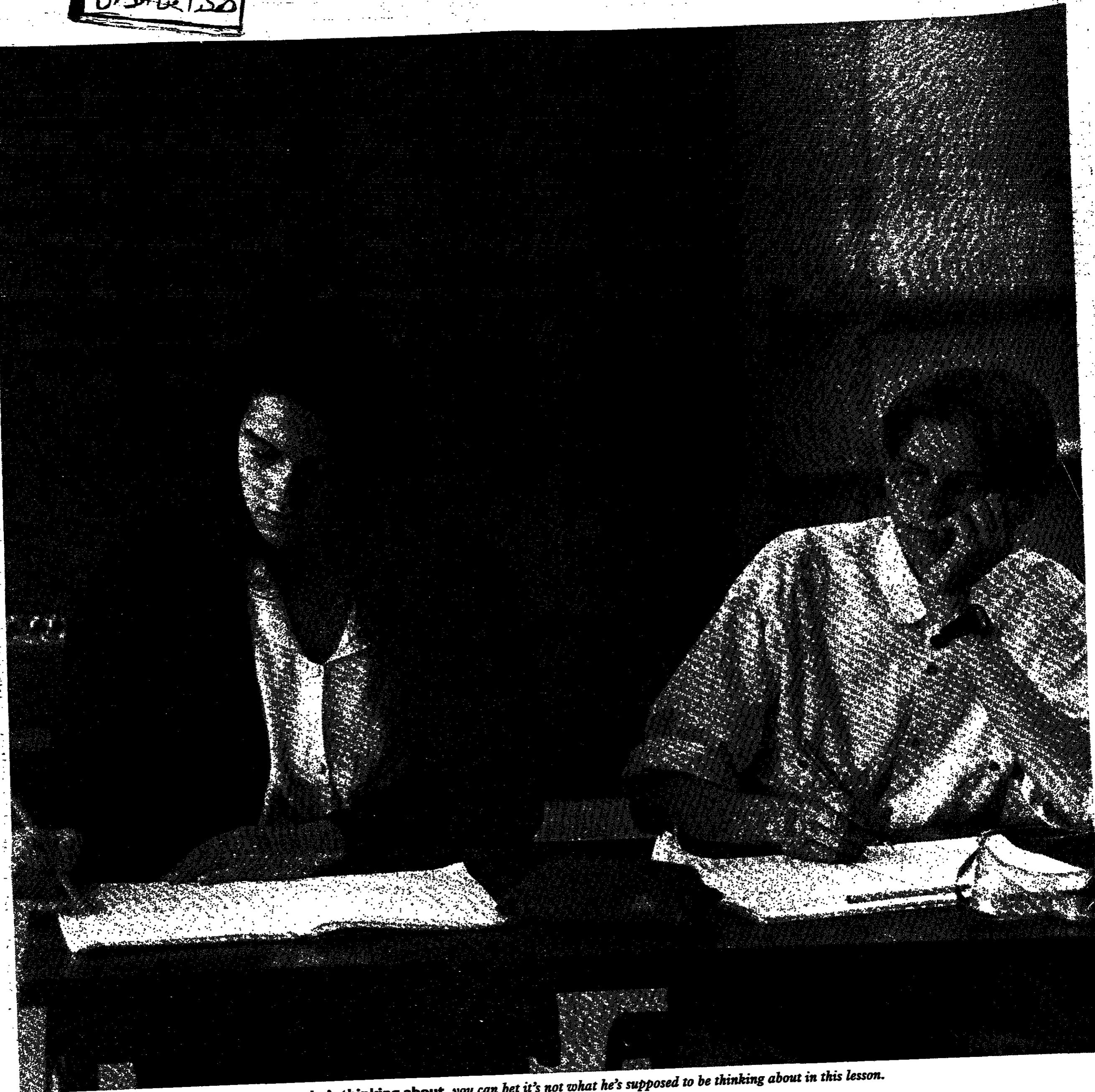
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Whatever he's thinking about, you can bet it's not what he's supposed to be thinking about in this lesson.

IT'S QUITE A CHALLENGE MAKING FRACTIONAL DISTILLATION MORE INTERESTING THAN SEX.

The question of how crude oil is separated into its component parts is not, needless to say, one of the most important things on the mind of the average 14 year old. It is however one of the important things on the GCSE science syllabus. Finding a way of breathing life into it is what teaching is all about.

ENTHUSIASM will certainly help. If you are fascinated by your subject, it will rub off on your classes too. A good sense of humour will not go amiss, either. Not only will it help you keep the attention of a class, it will also help you to deal with the difficult children you will certainly encounter at some time or other.

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and projects are all methods teachers use to make learning much more fun and their lessons more effective. They also make teaching more fun. And although more interesting lessons involve more work, you'll have all your training and the support of your colleagues to help you.

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Teaching brings out the best in people.

Strasbourg squares up to Brussels in bid for more EC power

from Michael Binion
Strasbourg

EVERYONE knows that members of the European Parliament want more power; the question now is how do they propose to get it? Can they force European leaders to commit themselves at the inter-governmental conference in December to giving the European Parliament the right of co-decision, the right to appoint the Commission and the right to throw out European legislation?

The first shots in the European Parliament's campaign will be fired in Strasbourg today. Armed with a volley of reports on how the Parliament should ensure democratic accountability in the Community, a delegation of 12 MEPs from the main political groups will confront the Community's foreign ministers in the first pre-conference talks.

In the autumn, half the chamber - 259 MEPs - will meet in Italy with an equal number of deputies from the Community's 12 national parliaments in a series

of "assizes". With honeyed words and promises of closer co-operation with parliaments back home, the MEPs will plead for greater power, and will try to head off any incipient rivalries with national MP's loath to cede power to Strasbourg.

Inevitably, real power can come only at the expense of the other two arms of Community government: the Commission and the Council of Ministers. Reducing the power of the Commission is the less controversial; European leaders have long grumbled about the need to make Brussels more accountable and theoretically the Parliament already has the right to throw out the Community budget and sack the entire Commission (though it seems unlikely ever to be invoked).

Now the Parliament wants a real say in the nomination of the Commission and, most importantly, its President, for that office is emerging as that of prime minister of Europe. This could be

achieved in several ways, ranging from allowing the Parliament to nominate and elect the president directly, to arranging formal consultations with the leaders of the Parliament before member states made their choices (this already happens informally). Between the two, the Parliament could choose from a list submitted by the Twelve.

MEPs could also be required to give blanket approval to the Commission subsequently nominated by the President before it is sworn in. A more rigorous system of confirmation hearings for each commissioner, on the American model, would give the Parliament greater vetting power, but would destroy the principle of cabinet collegiality, which is closer to the traditions of European governments.

Parliament's role in setting the legislative agenda for each year could expand. At present this is done at an informal conference, where Brussels tells the Parliament what it wants to do, and Stras-

bourg works out the parliamentary timetable. This has already led this year to an angry confrontation with the majority Socialist group, which accused the Delors Commission of ignoring the Parliament's emphasis on social legislation.

Taking power from the Council would provoke more opposition from member states, especially France and Britain, that want national governments to retain the final say in enacting laws. The European Parliament wants "co-decision", which could be achieved by extending the so-called "co-operation procedure". The laws that make it difficult for ministers to adopt Single Market legislation without the Parliament's approval could be extended to cover all other fields, such as social legislation, taxation and the environment.

More drastically, Strasbourg could demand a right of final approval, so that legislation reached behind closed doors was approved by open vote in an elected assembly. This would, of course, give

MEPs the right to throw out any decisions by the Twelve's ministers that they did not like.

The most difficult issue is how to share power with national parliaments. Some people, including Mr Michael Heseltine, suggest creating a second chamber at Strasbourg composed of delegations of national MPs. Though superficially attractive, there are many objections to the proposal. First, it would be very costly. Secondly, like the original, the nominated European Parliament would place an enormous strain on MPs who had to commute between Strasbourg and their own parliaments (and with the increased workload in Europe, this might make it unworkable). Thirdly, giving the second chamber any power of veto would undermine the authority of directly elected MEPs.

MEPs are more likely to call for regular joint sittings with national parliaments on particular issues, such as transport or the environment, or to

invite MPs to speak at committee sessions of the European Parliament.

Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British Commissioner in Brussels, has suggested a new committee of national parliaments, a 150-strong body drawn proportionately from the 12 national parliaments that would meet periodically to scrutinize - though not veto - the decisions of the Council of Ministers and offer advice on what issues should be left to member states. Sir Leon said this would remove some of the secrecy of Council decisions, and address the problem of national parliaments feeling excluded from EC decision-making.

The European Parliament knows that it must stake its claim for power before the inter-governmental conference in December. Its first task is persuasion: appealing to public opinion through meetings with foreign ministers, national MPs and Commission officials. Its second task is to ensure a seat at the table when the conference begins.

Kohl seeks bigger role for Europe's Parliament

From Michael Binion, Strasbourg

HERR Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday warned his European Community partners that unless they gave the European Parliament greater powers to exercise firm democratic control over the European Community, Germany was unwilling to surrender any more national sovereignty to European institutions.

His remarks, distributed in advance, appeared to be addressed particularly to President Mitterrand of France as well as to Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, who has come out explicitly against giving the Strasbourg Parliament any more power.

Herr Kohl cut back his prepared remarks on the need for a strengthened Parliament, a strengthening of political cooperation and common EC foreign and security policies in order to make time for a clear reaction to his election defeat in two Länder last week. But German officials said his text still represented the Bonn position.

Herr Kohl added a promise to his prepared remarks that the Bonn Government would not raise taxes to pay for German unity as this would hurt economic development. Instead, West Germany would set up a special fund to pay for the cost of unification.

The Chancellor was addressing MEPs on the eve of their meeting with Community foreign ministers to decide what role Parliament should play in the closer political integration of the Community, and how MEPs' views should be represented at the inter-governmental conference on political union.

Herr Kohl said clear steps were needed to strengthen Parliament's powers before the next European elections in 1994. "According to our conception of Parliament, further rights of national parliaments and governments should only be given up to European institutions if there exists a clear parliamentary control at European level."

Germany has long insisted on greater power for the Parliament, and has linked this with the setting up of a European central bank system, which Bonn wants to be as autonomous as the Bundesbank answerable only to the European Parliament. This point was made to a group of MEPs on Tuesday by Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, who said national governments had to be prepared to surrender sovereignty over setting interest rates and money supply to the new central bank. This bank should be free of political tinkering by member states and accountable principally to the European Parliament.

Mr Haughey, currently president of the European

party deliberately mocks the electoral process. One recent meeting was addressed by a candidate who identified himself only as a "Marxist", and a girl of four who sang a campaign song.

Founded by Professor Stefan Cazimir, a pukish professor of literature at Bucharest University, the party has already attracted a small but dedicated band of supporters, mostly intellectuals and artists. It will be fielding 33 candidates in next Sunday's poll, in which 73 parties are competing.

Miss Anda Stoeni, a Bucharest organizer, said: "We are anti-communist, but we are also anti-Messianic. We are against those new political leaders like Ion Iliescu, presidential candidate of the National Salvation Front, who set themselves up, just like Ceausescu, needing adulation from a bunch of sheep." With that, she burst into song and then ran through the party meeting in a now defunct Roma-

nian-Soviet friendship hall, woofing like a dog. "In our party, the lowest are the leaders and leaders like Professor Cazimir are regarded as the least important amongst us," she said before bursting into peals of infectious laughter.

Underneath the levity, the party has a serious purpose - to mock the ambitions of the other political groupings, many of which it claims are pursuing the maintenance of communism in the thinnest of disguises. The Bucharest meeting was dominated by a giant portrait of the party's spiritual father, the 19th-century Romanian playwright Caragiale, whose work mocked corruption in Romania long before the arrival of the communists.

Party discipline is lax, but rules of membership are strict and aimed at showing up the Front. Membership of the Laughter Party is denied to those who had a function in the political leadership of Romania between January 1, 1980 and

December 22, 1989, who compromised themselves by endorsing the former regime, or anyone "without a sense of humour".

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All sources spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they feared arrest if names were published. But their willingness to talk to Western journalists at all would have been unthinkable until this year. (Reuters)

THE newly elected Congress of the Russian Federation, which pits supporters of the central leadership of President Gorbachev against Mr Boris Yeltsin, the popular radical, opened in the Kremlin yesterday morning and became bogged down almost at once in an angry debate about procedures.

Amid the anger, however, two minor victories for the reformists suggested that Mr Yeltsin's bid for the post of president of the Russian Federation was not yet lost. With Mr Gorbachev and other members of the leadership looking down on the long, narrow hall from two of five gilt boxes, 1,059 deputies complained that they had failed to "catch the chairman's eye" even though they had been standing at microphones ready to speak.

There were persistent objections to the venue in the Grand Kremlin Palace - a long, thin hall with very high ornate ceilings surrounded by labyrinthine corridors and galleries. The acoustics made the chairman difficult to hear, even with an elaborate system of microphones, and deputies complained that it took them so long to reach a microphone themselves that the vote had been taken before they were ready to speak.

By the afternoon, an extra microphone had been added for speakers from the floor, but the mood was no less agitated. Every item on the agenda was contested, point by point. The composition of the so-called technical commission responsible for the computer voting system was contested. (Such a system was introduced for the all-union Congress last year, some deputies have grown suspicious that it can be manipulated.)

The next bone of contention was the "counting commission" which oversees votes then the composition of the secretariat, then the method of choosing the chairman of the secretariat - the Congress secretariat is responsible among other things for

providing the chairman with lists of those who want to speak in a particular debate. Then the "mandate commission" came under scrutiny - this checks that the candidates are who they say they are, that they won their elections without transgressing the law, and swears them in.

In the first of the Yeltsin supporters' small victories, Dr Tatjana Koryagina, a radical economist, came within 150 votes of being elected to the mandate commission - though she withdrew her candidacy subsequently, not having reached the microphone before the vote was taken.

The second victory was to have the editor of the conservative daily, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, voted off the "editorial commission" - the group which edits the official transcript of the proceedings.

The final debate concerned the agenda - and a point which could swing the advantage for or against Mr Yeltsin. According to the draft, the Russian Federation Prime Minister's report on the past year's work was scheduled to be given after the election of a praesidium and its chairman (the president). Mr Yeltsin's supporters wanted the report to be given first, in the hope that its record of misfortune would discredit the Prime Minister, Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, who is probably Mr Yeltsin's main opponent.

Fierce Congress debate boosts Yeltsin's hand

From Mary Dejevskiy, Moscow

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Discontent erupts in Albania strike

by Mrs Nexhmije Hoxha, aged 68, the widow of the country's Stalinist former ruler, Enver Hoxha, and chairwoman of the Democratic Front mass movement.

"This group with hands washed in blood continues to sit on the throne. Its iron hand is the troops of the Sigurimi (secret police)," a dissident statement calling for multi-party democracy said.

Albania's Parliament last week approved a package of limited reforms covering human rights and the economy, championed by the country's leader, Mr Ramiz Alia, who succeeded Hoxha when he died in 1985 after 40 years of hard-line rule.

The dissident statement was read to reporters by a young writer and an engineer. "Our leaders realized soon after the East European revolutions that it was their turn," the statement said. Mr Alia's reforms "might be meant well but up till now they have served the consolidation of the conservative forces led by Mrs Hoxha."

All sources spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they feared arrest if names were published. But their willingness to talk to Western journalists at all would have been unthinkable until this year. (Reuters)

Barkers who bite in Romania's loony Laughter Party

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

ONLY in a Romanian election would you find a party whose members bark at each other like dogs and crack endless jokes about Nicolae Ceausescu and his would-be successors.

Their favourite concerns the late Elena Ceausescu and her favourite son, Nicu, whose trial for genocide opens this month: "She was an imbecile born of a drunkard, and he was a drunk born of an imbecile." In a campaign marred by violence and ill-humour, the meetings of the *Liber-Schimbist* (free exchange) or Laughter Party have shone like rays of sunshine. "The first cause of the dead of the December revolution should be laughter," one slogan runs. Contemptuous of the low standard of political debate among a people still recovering from 24 years of repression under Europe's most brutal dictatorship since Stalin, the

party deliberately mocks the electoral process. One recent meeting was addressed by a candidate who identified himself only as a "Marxist", and a girl of four who sang a campaign song.

Founded by Professor Stefan Cazimir, a pukish professor of literature at Bucharest University, the party has already attracted a small but dedicated band of supporters, mostly intellectuals and artists. It will be fielding 33 candidates in next Sunday's poll, in which 73 parties are competing.

Miss Anda Stoeni, a Bucharest organizer, said: "We are anti-communist, but we are also anti-Messianic. We are against those new political leaders like Ion Iliescu, presidential candidate of the National Salvation Front, who set themselves up, just like Ceausescu, needing adulation from a bunch of sheep." With that, she burst into song and then ran through the party meeting in a now defunct Roma-

nian-Soviet friendship hall, woofing like a dog. "In our party, the lowest are the leaders and leaders like Professor Cazimir are regarded as the least important amongst us," she said before bursting into peals of infectious laughter.

Underneath the levity, the party has a serious purpose - to mock the ambitions of the other political groupings, many of which it claims are pursuing the maintenance of communism in the thinnest of disguises. The Bucharest meeting was dominated by a giant portrait of the party's spiritual father, the 19th-century Romanian playwright Caragiale, whose work mocked corruption in Romania long before the arrival of the communists.

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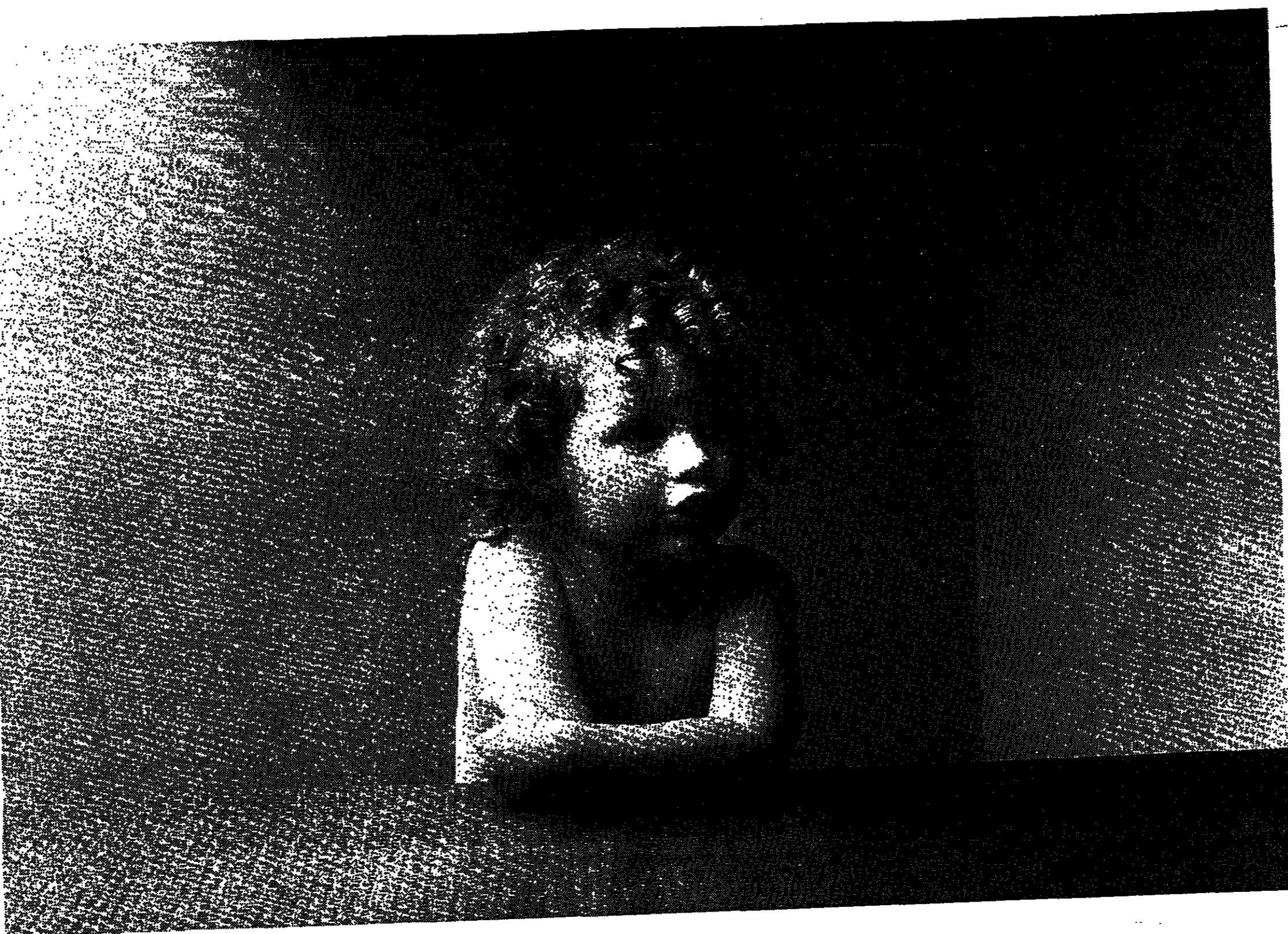
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Ever missed out on a cuddle because of a client?



Ever had to catch the 7 am shuttle?

Ever been mis-quoted by a trade journalist?

Ever had to m-m-make a speech?

Ever had to cancel a holiday?

Ever been stuck in a suit when it's 80 in the shade?

Ever had to have "one last drink" with a client?

Ever been stuck in Stuttgart?

Ever worked so late you've slept at the office?

Ever had to sit through a sales conference?

Ever missed the last shuttle home?

Ever had to be nice to a smart-ass?

Ever wondered why you put yourself through all this?

Ever had to fire someone?

Because you're a professional. That's why.

Latvians cling to hopes of renewed talks with Moscow

From Anatol Lieven, Riga

THE Latvian Deputy Prime Minister has said that talks with Moscow will continue, in spite of President Gorbachov's decree that the Latvian declaration of independence is illegal, and the increasingly radical tone of local opponents of Baltic independence.

The Soviet loyalist movement Interfront, whose followers staged disturbances on Tuesday, has called a general strike in Estonia for next Monday, which may be supported by Russian workers in the other two republics.

The belief that talks will continue was expressed by Dr Ilmars Bisers after returning from informal discussions with Soviet officials in Moscow, where he is a member of the Congress of People's Deputies.

He told the press that the talks with Soviet representatives scheduled for last Tuesday have only been postponed "because of inadequate preparation on the Soviet side", and may resume in a week.

Dr Bisers said that Soviet officials close to Mr Gorbachov had not seemed especially worried by the

Latvian declaration of legal independence, which they had been expecting. "I do not think Mr Gorbachov's response is very harsh," Dr Bisers said. "There are no talks with Lithuania, but it seems that Moscow is not refusing to talk with us."

Dr Bisers said that some Soviet officials were taking a positive attitude towards the establishment last weekend of a "Baltic council", because "it may get them out of the dead end they have got into with Lithuania, drawing that country back into the talks process".

Dr Bisers raised once more what is likely to be the central question of a confederation with the Soviet Union, which he said remained on the agenda. In the discussions with Moscow, he said, "we were supposed to talk further about regaining independence for Latvia on the basis of a treaty with the Soviet Union".

He said that even President Landsbergis of Lithuania told him three weeks ago that he was willing to consider the possibility of a "treaty of association" with the Soviet Union. But Dr Ivars

Godmanis, the Prime Minister, has said that Latvia must have established real independence before it can negotiate a confederation.

Dr Bisers is evasive on the subject, but implies that independence can come through a treaty with the Soviet Union, implying that independence and confederation must be agreed simultaneously, perhaps with a brief symbolic period of "total sovereignty" before ratification of a confederation.

Dr Bisers said that he also spoke in Moscow with Mr Vadim Bokatin, the Soviet Interior Minister, over the question of the appointment of a new Latvian Interior Minister, whom the Russian-dominated Riga police have refused to accept.

Some Popular Front depu-

ties see the charge by riot police against mainly army demonstrators on Tuesday as further evidence by Mr Bruno Steinbrucks, the present Interior Minister and Soviet loyalist, that he controls the police but is willing to use them to defend the present government, at least up to a point.

ties see the charge by riot police against mainly army demonstrators on Tuesday as further evidence by Mr Bruno Steinbrucks, the present Interior Minister and Soviet loyalist, that he controls the police but is willing to use them to defend the present government, at least up to a point.

A new riddle: A computerized weather station, perched on top of the Sphinx, begins sending data today which scientists hope will help them arrest the monument's alarming decay. Scientists from the Getty Conservation Institute based in Marina Del Rey, California, said instruments for the \$200,000 (£119,000) solar-powered meteorological station had been adapted from a conservation project in China. It weighs 200lbs, stands 6ft 6ins tall and resembles

a praying mantis on its haunches. It is held in place on the Sphinx's back by sandbags, and will remain for at least a year, transmitting data — on rainfall, wind direction and speed, relative humidity, pollutants, temperature and the effects of water and salt on the limestone layers of the statue — to a computer a mile away. Mr Frank Preissner, acting co-director of the Getty conservation team, said the information received should enable Egyptian scientists to

develop a strategy to save the Sphinx.

"The Sphinx is perhaps the most famous and by far the most thoroughly documented and scrutinized monument of the ancient world," Mr Preissner said. But "there has never been a co-ordinated effort to quantify and examine ... (detrimental) factors" affecting it. "We can't stop deterioration of any monument in the world, but there is always a solution to slowing down the decay." (AP)



Greens pin down the leaping gene

From Ian Murray, Bonn

A FIELD the size of a football pitch planted out with petunias has made the Greens see red. So angry are they that, all this week, they have got up at six in the morning to block the road to the field outside Cologne, which has had to be protected by security guards, wire grilles and dogs.

The trouble is that, if nature had its way, the 37,000 salmon pink petunias in the middle of it all should be white — and the Greens believe they ought to have been left that way. Descended from a long line of white petunias, they have been genetically engineered by researchers at the Max Planck Institute, who have crossed them with maize genes.

What the researchers want to find, capture and isolate are what they describe as "leaping genes" which, as their name implies, are somewhat volatile. They occur in all varieties, but are not firmly tied in to the genetic information of the plant, which means that they can change position and thus sometimes influence the activities of other genes.

Genetic engineers have ways of making use of them — if they can catch them, which is where the artificially pink petunias come in. This is because a rare petunia containing a "leaping gene" does not blush a uniform salmon colour when it is crossed with the maize gene. Instead it comes out in spots or even stripes of red. This makes it stand out clearly from all its ordinary, common or garden neighbours, allowing the scientists to capture it.

An entire field of petunias is necessary because the "leaping gene" is such a rarity that it is only by planting out an entire field that the researchers can be sure of finding examples.

The rest of the plants flower unwanted. The Greens worry about such unnatural goings on. What will happen, they wonder, if the seed of a maize-crossed petunia turns into a dangerous mutant? "Will these petunias bite?" they have been asking the scientists. The Green lobby is worried that

offshoots of these petunias could be the first innocent seedlings of what could become a whole nursery of unnatural, dangerous growths.

Even though the strictly controlled genetic engineering of embryos has been approved for research in West Germany, the petunia is the first plant to undergo such treatment, and the Greens want it to be the last. The Max Planck Institute has done its best to reassure them. Their scientists say that there will be no environmental consequences. The maize genes are harmless, they point out, and as many seeds as possible will be disposed of afterwards. Should any escape the harvest, they stand no realistic chance of survival since the seeds of the petunias are sensitive to frost and damp and will not be able to withstand the winter.

The Greens are none the less worried. The harmless, pretty pink flower, they argue, will lull world opinion into a false sense of security about the dangers of messing around with nature.

Freed US hostage has cancer

Washington — Mr Robert Polhill, the American hostage freed last month after 39 months in captivity, has cancer of the throat and is to have his larynx removed today (Martin Fletcher writes). His condition was diagnosed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington, where he has been a patient since his return from Lebanon.

Dr Russ Zajchuk, his doctor, said Mr Polhill, aged 55, probably had the cancer for more than a year, but there was no evidence of it having spread. "Mr Polhill has shown remarkable strength of character and he has a very positive attitude," he said.

Moscow given Gatt look-in

Geneva — The Soviet Union was granted observer status yesterday by the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or Gatt (Alan McGregor writes). While this is an essential step towards full membership that will depend on restructuring the Soviet economy to a market-based price and distribution system compatible with Gatt rules.

More than 30 countries have observer status. Mr Rufus Yerxa, the US representative, said it was an important moment after 45 years of a divided world economy.

Pay row troops seize airport

Abidjan — Ivory Coast appealed to military recruits who shut the country's main airport yesterday to return to barracks and surrender. As many as 400 recruits took over West Africa's busiest airport at dawn in a protest over pay, firing their guns in the air.

Other young recruits demanding their pay be boosted from the current level of about £7 a month, commanded cars, taxis and about 50 military vehicles. French forces in Ivory Coast were placed on maximum alert. (Reuters)

US budget deficit forecast rises again

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

FOR the third time in as many months the White House has increased its 1991 budget deficit forecast, and given a warning that firm remedial action must be taken if the relentless upward spiral is not to result in fiscal chaos.

The latest administration figures project a deficit of between \$128 billion (£77 billion) and \$140 billion for the fiscal year beginning this October, up from the \$100.5 billion the White House originally forecast in late January.

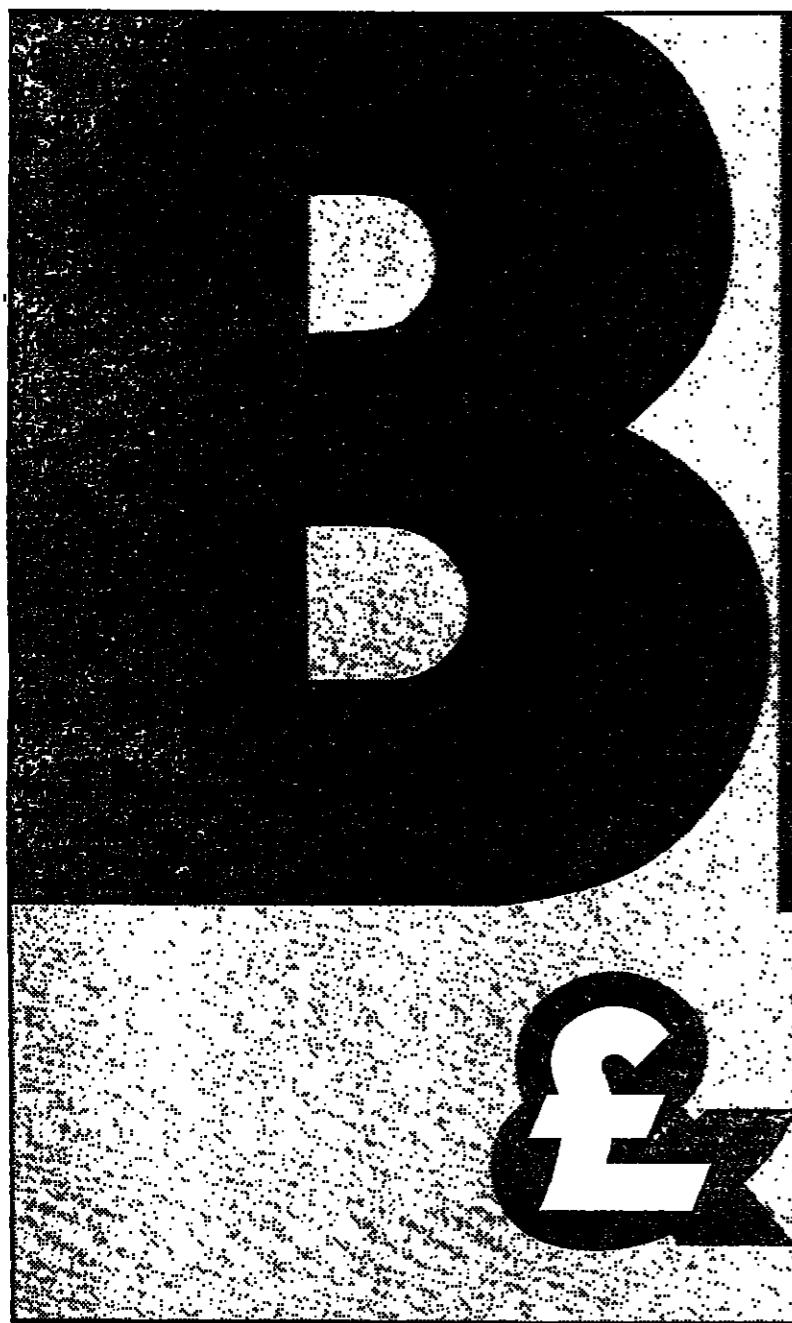
The new figures do not include next year's bill for bailing out insolvent savings and loan institutions, the American equivalent of building societies. They would increase the deficit forecast to \$190 billion, and triple the \$64 billion target which the Administration must meet next year under the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction legislation.

The sombre new forecast was revealed by Mr Richard Darman, the White House Budget Director, at the first "budget summit" between the Administration and congressional leaders at the White House on Tuesday.

The meeting was the first in a series which are likely to last a month or two.

South Africa promises scrap pile of apartheid

Pretoria plans to integrate hospitals



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Scientists declare war on asteroids

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

SCIENTISTS yesterday called for nuclear weapons to be redeployed to defend Earth against asteroids, 46,000 mph celestial boulders sometimes wider than Britain and capable of having an impact equivalent to the force of several thousand hydrogen bombs.

The call, by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, comes in the wake of thawing East-West relations and what is being claimed as a recent, potentially catastrophic, near miss by an asteroid. Last year 1989 FC, an asteroid bigger than an aircraft carrier, passed within 400,000 miles of Earth before astronomers noticed it. "Such an object could cause a disaster of unprecedented proportions if it had struck," the institute says in a paper.

The institute says nuclear weapons should be put on standby to intercept and shatter the asteroids. It calls for a global network of telescopes for early detection, and studies into power units that could divert asteroids.

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US budget deficit forecast rises again

الحملة من

From Martin

Washington

South Africa promises to scrap pillars of apartheid

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE South African Government has implicitly recognized the failure of the black homelands system, and the inhumanity of classifying people according to race, and has promised to dismantle both pillars of apartheid as soon as possible.

Senior Cabinet ministers addressing Parliament this week made it clear that neither had any place in a multiracial society, and would be phased out as part of negotiations on a new constitution.

Mr Stoof van der Merwe, the Minister for (Black) Education and Development Aid, who also has responsibility for the tribal homelands, said the Government accepted that independence was no longer an option for the six autonomous territories. "In the present circumstances it is therefore, also no longer the aim of the central Government. The

overriding aim now is the participation of all South Africans in the central political process."

His announcement spells the end of the policy of "grand apartheid" devised in 1950 by Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, under which 10 homelands were established to serve as black labour dormitories for the white economy, and as dumping grounds for those whose labour was not required. Mr van der Merwe made no reference to four of the territories which accepted nominal independence in the 1970s, but it is regarded in government circles as inevitable that all will be re-integrated in South Africa as part of plans for sharing power with the black majority.

Mr Van der Merwe said existing rights and legislation in the six self-governing homelands would be reviewed, and it was possible certain functions would be returned to Pretoria as an interim measure.

Mr Gene Low, the Home Affairs Minister, expressed the strongest official criticism so far of the Population Registration Act (1950), under which all citizens must be registered at birth as belonging to one of four race groups.

Mr Low said the law was unacceptable, totally inflexible, and undoubtedly discriminatory, and the Government wished to be rid of it as soon as possible.

Applying it during the past four decades had been an "unpleasant and heartbreak experience", he said. "We cannot enter a new constitutional dispensation while retaining the contents of this Act. Its description of race and groups is unacceptable."

Citing an example of members of one family being classified in three different race groups, he said it was untenable. It was becoming increasingly difficult for him to classify people under the terms of the Act, because "free association of people is becoming a pattern of everyday life".

Mr Low said it would be impractical to declare a moratorium on the law, because it was part of the constitutional debate. His department would apply it as much as sympathy and compassion as was humanly possible.

President de Klerk recently reaffirmed his intention to abolish statutory discrimination, but said the Population Registration Act could be amended only as part of a new constitution.

• BRUSSELS: The European Community will re-examine its anti-apartheid policy at a meeting in Dublin next month, the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Gerard Collins, said after meeting President de Klerk yesterday.

"We will discuss the situation bearing in mind the developments that have taken place," Mr Collins told reporters after his one-hour talk with the South African President. But he refused to speculate whether EC foreign ministers, meeting in Dublin on June 18, would change their policy or drop any sanctions.

President De Klerk, who is on the fourth leg of an 18-day European tour to promote his programme of apartheid reforms, has urged the Community to re-evaluate sanctions against Pretoria. (Reuters)



Strike force: An Indian policeman lashing out to drive back a supporter of the Left Front at a demonstration in Delhi yesterday. Scuffles broke out between police and demonstrators who were protesting against increases in the price of essential commodities

Pretoria plans to integrate hospitals

Cape Town

RACIAL segregation in South African state hospitals is to be abolished, the Government announced yesterday. Doctors immediately welcomed the move, the latest in a series of proposed reforms announced this month by President de Klerk.

Dr Rina Venter, the Health Minister, told Parliament here: "The Government has decided that the available capacity of beds in all hospitals must be accessible to all persons and that a model be designed to manage this in an orderly fashion."

Dr Venter announced that state health services would be restructured on the basis of equality and accessibility to ensure proper treatment for the black majority. Some state-funded hospitals are at present reserved for whites, some for blacks, while others are split into sections for blacks and whites. A small minority are integrated.

The practice dates from British colonial times, but was institutionalized by apartheid laws passed after the National Party took power in 1948.

Dr Venter said that before any new hospitals could be built, the Government would launch a nationwide study of health care. "The approach to this evaluation will be that all hospitals are accessible to all persons and that no facility may remain under-used while new ones are being built," she said.

Dr Faizel Randera, publicity secretary of the anti-apartheid National Medical and Dental Association, said the organization was excited by the announcement. "We have been struggling and fighting for years for a non-racial health service. In the sweeping announcement by the minister it appears that this is what South Africa is looking forward to in the future."

He said most of South Africa's whites would feel little immediate effect as almost 90 per cent of them used private hospitals and clinics. (Reuters)

Strong yen breeds a new gallery of art collectors

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

EXPECT to see more of the world's most expensive paintings heading to Tokyo, where the strong yen, dizzy land values and, until their recent setback, soaring stock prices, have enabled more and more Japanese to live like Getty's.

But don't expect to see the art works on display in obvious places. One Japanese pinball arcade millionaire houses his Picassos, Chagalls and Renoirs in a museum he built by the side of a volcano in a remote part of southern Japan. Art lovers wanting to gaze at "Les Noces de Fierrette", the most expensive Picasso sold, when it was knocked down to a Japanese car parts company for £30 million, will have to trek its down a museum next to its race track in southern Japan.

Mr Michimasa Maruichi, who became rich by selling a few well-located rice paddies to hungry property developers, runs a furniture shop in a humdrum Tokyo suburb in which he displays his spectacular collection from the Barbizon School, including 10 Corots and as many Cézanne's.

Mr Masahiro Takano, who runs the Green Cab taxi company, has built the world's biggest collection of paintings by the French artist Marie



Money talks: Mr Hideto Kobayashi raising the price of a Van Gogh to \$82.5 million

Laurensen: the works are on show at an out-of-the-way hilltop resort.

Yasuda Fine and Marine, headed by Japan's Finance Ministry for its dramatic dive into the art market in 1987, is a bit more accommodating. It has put Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" on public display at its Tokyo headquarters. It is hard to recall that the sale price of £24.75 million drew gasps just three years ago.

These are examples of the

new breed of art collector that has sprung up in Japan, where the state is not a great benefactor of the arts but gives tax breaks to companies that want to add a bit of glamour to their reputation for ball-bearings or marine insurance.

Although many paintings go from an auction room to a well-located Japanese vault, more and more businessmen and small companies are starting up art museums outside which they can park their

on behalf of a blue-chip company quoted on the Tokyo stock exchange, is saying only that his client wanted it at any price. "They are extremely pleased," he said.

Art experts reckon that four out of every 10 top quality paintings sold at the world's main auction houses now find their way to Japan. They say that the recent jitters on the stock exchange, rather than dampening Japanese buyers' enthusiasm for paintings, has in fact made top quality art look an even more attractive home for their spare cash. While Tokyo shares may be off their peak for the moment, land prices are still booming and creating new Japanese Rockefellers every day.

Owners of tiny corner stores, or Tokyo's famous urban farmers, who till a rice paddy barely bigger than a tennis court, become dollar-millionaires as soon as they sell up. Land in Tokyo's posh Ginza district fetches 37.7 million yen (£14,000) a square metre. Art is often a convenient way to hide money from the taxman.

A record 280 billion yen worth of art was imported into Japan last year, according to customs records: this is a five-fold increase over 1988. French Impressionist works were most favoured — they are

easily recognizable, come with a reliable provenance and are seen by the Japanese as less than Old Masters.

The old days, when galleries, department stores (still the most likely place for well-heeled Japanese to pick up a Picasso), and a few private investors and collectors dominated the market, are over. Now everyone seems to be joining in the fun. "Coffee shops used to rent paintings worth 20,000 or 30,000 yen," said one art specialist, "but now there are company presidents willing to pay to rent a painting worth several tens of millions or even billions of yen so they can put it in their offices. It's getting so the average art gallery can't compete with the kind of money involved."

But the Japanese are not stopping at just picking up pictures. One of Japan's more colourful gallery owners, Mr Yasumichi Morishita, has bought a stake in Christie's, the house that auctioned the Van Gogh in New York. Mr Morishita, a financier with a criminal record and a racy reputation in Japan, became Christie's second biggest shareholder last autumn when he bought a £33 million stake in the British auction house.

Leading article, page 15

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

Chile doubt on theory of Briton's suicide

Santiago — Judge Alejandro Solis, investigating the death of Jonathan Moyle, an English journalist and helicopter expert, expressed doubts about a suicide theory (Lake Sagrario writes).

Moyle, attending an international arms exhibition organized by the Chilean Air Force, was found hanging in a closet in a Santiago hotel in March. Judge Solis said he could not find a motive for suicide and, according to a half-finished letter in Moyle's room, he had planned to take part in a Bolivian drugs raid

Subway survival

New York — Miss Christa Newmann-Spallart, aged 26, an Austrian student who was shoved by an unknown man into the path of an oncoming subway train, escaped by rolling into the trough of the tracks and lying flat as the train passed over her. (AFP)

Unity search

Bujumbura — President Buyoya of Burundi has promised a "democratic constitution under a one-party government", ending its military rule, and a referendum on a charter aimed at unifying the traditional rival Tutsi and Hima tribes. (AP)

Bases fears

Manila — The United States is concerned for the security of its personnel in the Philippines after two airmen were murdered, and negotiations aimed at resolving a dispute over payment for continuation of US military bases there failed again. (AFP)

Tourist killed

Nairobi — Luc Poppe, aged 31, a Belgian tourist reported missing in April, has been found dead in a river near Mount Kenya, a Belgian Embassy official revealed here. (Reuter)

Nazi charges

East Berlin — East Germany is asking Syria to extradite Herr Alois Brunner, a suspected Nazi war criminal accused of deporting thousands of Jews to death camps. (Reuter)

Poll arrests

Kuwait — Two pro-democracy activists, campaigning for a boycott of the general election next month, have been arrested on charges of holding an illegal gathering. (Reuter)

Drugs haul

Tokyo — Japanese authorities have seized a record 92.4 lb of cocaine on a Colombian banana boat and arrested one Colombian crew member.

Shamir seeks cash for new settlers

From Richard Owen
Jerusalem

IN A signal of the hard-line stand his forthcoming right-of-centre Government is likely to take on the peace issue, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli caretaker Prime Minister, yesterday asked the Knesset (parliament) to approve extra spending of £14 million on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

At the same time Mr Teddy Kollek, the liberal Mayor of Jerusalem, who is normally critical of settlement policy, said recent remarks by Christian leaders attacking a Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City were "deeply offensive".

The three-week period given to Mr Shamir by President Herzog to prove he can form a government expires today. Despite last-minute differences yesterday with the Orthodox religious party, Shas, over distribution of portfolios and the issue of electoral reform, Mr Shamir is said by officials of his Likud party to have "sewn up" a coalition with the religious parties and small, right-wing factions in the Knesset.

The religious and right-wing groups — and for that matter many members of Likud — are firmly opposed to the Middle East peace proposals put forward during the life of the previous Labour-Likud Government by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Mr Shamir himself has ruled out the Baker plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo on the grounds that it would lead to direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization and open the way for negotiations on the status of Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

The new right-wing Government's guidelines reportedly contain a commitment to peace with the Arabs, but couched in vague terms in contrast to Mr Baker's attempt to persuade both sides to settle their terms and set a specific agenda.

Israel reacted defiantly yesterday to President Gorbachov's assertion during



Mr Kollek: Finds Church remarks "offensive"

President Mubarak's visit to Moscow this week that the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, was "dangerous and criminal".

Mr Shamir has also come under fire from Washington both for authorizing new West Bank settlements and for providing official funds for the attempted takeover by militant Jewish settlers of St John's Hospice, a church-owned hostel next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Undaunted, Mr Shamir yesterday asked the Knesset finance committee to release £14 million from the Housing Ministry's contingency fund to expand West Bank settlements, build new ones and improve settlement access roads, many of which bypass hostile Arab villages.

There is no official overall figure for settlement funding, which is scattered under different budget headings. But the funding is believed to be of the order of nearly £200 million a year. Mr Shamir's aides said yesterday's request was "routine" and consistent with the guidelines of the previous Labour-Likud Government.

A controversial report issued here yesterday aroused Israeli Army anger by claiming that one-fifth of all deaths by gunfire in the past two and half years of the Palestinian intifada were accounted for by children under the age of 16.

How deep the Labour allure?

David Butler

A few years ago no one would have believed that Labour could produce a policy review that went as far as this from the attributes that have made it so unsaleable over the past decade. Few would credit that the leadership would be willing to take such a leap, or that it could do so confident that the party would accept the revolution in stance.

Early this year a National Opinion Poll survey found a clear majority believing that a Labour government would put up prices, weaken the economy, add taxes, increase strikes, and weaken defence. However, the same poll (which put Labour in the lead in voting intention) found a majority thinking that Labour would improve education and health, reduce unemployment and add to freedom. This week's policy review may not be specific on what Labour would do, but everything it seems designed to reassure the misgivings of voters who want a change but do not quite trust Labour in the economic field.

The party's descent between 1974 and 1983 was catastrophic. It fell from 39 per cent of the vote to 28 per cent. The recovery has been slow: in 1987 Labour's vote rose to 31 per cent and in the opinion polls the party lagged behind until a year ago. But now it is winning by-elections on record swings, achieving a best-ever local government performance, and staying handsomely ahead in the polls. This remarkable achievement owes a bit to the collapse of the centre parties, but far more to the disasters of the Government's economic and tax policies. The old adage, "Governments lose elections, oppositions don't win them," seems to be borne out.

In fact, oppositions, too, lose elections. Labour fared disastrously in 1983 and badly in 1987 because it was seen as soft on defence, anti-European, beholden to the unions, and financially irresponsible. At times in the Eighties it was fashionable to picture the party as in terminal decline. We have watched a miraculous escape. With the aid of the policy review, the party has sloughed off most of the policies that were frightening to middle Britain. It has repudiated unilateralism — and, anyway, in a post-global world, people are less worried about defence. It has embraced the European Community. It has, to a considerable degree, drawn away from the unions' embrace and accepted most of recent employment legislation. And it has come to terms with privatization and with market forces. Is this enough? Will a prosperous property-owning electorate risk its well-being at the hands of these late converts?

The Conservatives are certainly frightened. At last there appears to be an alternative government, a cohesive group with plausible policies. Kenneth Baker and his

colleagues are naturally intent on undermining faith in Neil Kinnock and his team from bench and on demonstrating that the old, impractical, spendthrift socialist urges are still there behind their new image, burnished by the public relations men.

The evidence of opinion polls indeed shows that electors, while seeing Labour as more caring and better fitted to deal with the health service and employment, are still doubtful about Labour's capacity to handle the economy. There is no sign that Labour is offering an alternative with a deep-rooted appeal. Its strength comes from disenchantment at the perceived failures of Mrs Thatcher and her policies. Recent polls have shown a Labour majority among two groups which provided the core of the Conservative triumphs of 1983 and 1987 — skilled manual workers and even housewives.

If Labour is now seen as acceptable, it is largely because it has embraced Conservative, if not Thatcherite, policies. And, as socialist governments in Australia and New Zealand have shown, the left can win repeatedly by stealing the clothes of the right.

Elections are fought in terms both of personalities and of issues. The next two years will see mighty efforts to discredit the parties by discrediting their leaders. Mr Kinnock's rating has risen sharply in the past 18 months and Mrs Thatcher's has plummeted. But such ratings are volatile. The parties' fate will be decided by a more general perception of the relative capacity and realism of the Conservative and Labour teams. Both are at the mercy of uncontrollable economic forces. There is not very much that John Major, the Chancellor, can now do to alter the level of inflation or of employment that will be affecting voters' judgement at the end of next year. We shall have to choose the devil we know or the devil we don't.

Labour has taken remarkable strides towards presenting itself as a possible government, but Conservatives will be skilled at pointing out that the men and the policies are untried. The City may like John Smith and find even his tax policies bearable. But do they believe that Labour's Treasury team, even when shackled within the European Monetary System, will be able to restrain the immense party pressures to spend more on health, more on education and more on social welfare — far more than can be covered by a peace dividend or a 10 per cent hike in income tax for the rich?

In those days, of course, arms meant nothing much worse than machine-guns, because there wasn't anything much worse than machine-guns. Today, when nerve gas is sold in Boots and hydrogen bombs in Mr Patel's corner shop along with lollipops and the newspapers, we are less sensitive, particularly because much of the arms trade has been nationalized; we do not think it odd to say that Britain, rather than Vickers, has just pipped the French or the Swedes on a contract to help some gang of bloodthirsty bandits in Africa murder more of their population more cost-effectively, while simultaneously arming the bandits' rivals against the day they come to power and start doing a bit of murdering on their own account. So although somebody must still manufacture the weapons, the odiun which used to cling to Zaharoff and his like is nowadays mild, and no one would bring out a sequel to *Merchants of Death* which fingered specific arms traders. Except, perhaps, Dr Bull.

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He said you are playing yourselves, you, Bernard Levin, are playing Bernard Levin and you, I am summer, you are going to this restaurant, which you Bernard Levin know and are showing to him, me — and the head waiter meets you and takes you to a table. You can make up what you say as you go along.

Leave it to me, I told Elijah, I am a member of Equity.

"Quiet, everyone, rehearsal," said a man. Levin and I stood outside a doorway, heard the man say "Action" and walked in. "The fish here is very fresh," said Levin; I asked him why his chauffeur wore a cape, and Albert Finney, as the head waiter, appeared and greeted Mr Levin and shook my hand. "Sir Clement?" He had heard of me.

Will you, said Elijah, turn in this direction when you speak and a property man marked the floor where we should stand. Another rehearsal, quiet please, action: "Mad cow disease has decimated the clientele here," said Levin; Jonty Meade didn't go for it a lot, said I, and Finney appeared saying Mr Levin and Sir Clement, sorry. Two more rehearsals and we tried a take, then another, a third. We were getting the hang of things entered on cue, remarks from Levin, riposte from Freud, enter Finney, "Mr Levin, good to see you again." "Do you know Sir Clement?" "Know his name, of course," said Finney; we shook hands, he asked whether we would like a drink in the bar, and called minion to lead us away.

Elijah thought we had done that scene just about as well as anyone could have done. It was 9.45am. "Now what?" I asked, beginning to rather enjoy things. Elijah said: "That's it, thank you, I have had a real pleasure working with you."

I don't suppose there will be much now until the Emmy awards.

John Hemming sets a practical agenda for today's international conference in London

Exploitation will save the rainforest

Renewable resources are the holy grail of the passionate army of rainforest conservationists. If only it could be shown that preserving those luxuriant jungles is worth more than destroying them, the campaign would almost be won. Any argument based on market forces is so obviously the best. Most of the countries with rainforests (which are the products of heat and of humidity generated by the Earth's spin, and therefore lie around the Equator) have crippling foreign debts; but they are suspicious that debt-for-nature swaps will mean loss of national pride or sovereignty.

Fernando Collor de Mello, Brazil's dynamic new president, expressed this attitude shortly after his election. Declaring that the environment would be a prime concern of his presidency, he added: "But not because of international pressure. I am a young man and I want a clean world, and so do most Brazilians. But we intend to achieve it for ourselves."

Appeals on moral or emotional grounds are hard to sustain. When conservationists plead that rain-

forests contain more than half of the planet's genetic diversity, that they are places of great beauty filled with millions of species of fellow creatures, or that they help to control the Earth's climate, the owners of the forests are apt to tell them to clean up the pollution in their own countries and replant the temperate forests.

In fact Brazil, which has 30 per cent of the world's surviving tropical forests, has responded fairly well to the moral arguments. The destruction continues — perhaps 10 per cent of the total rainforest there has already gone — but Brazil has granted protected status to 21 million hectares of Indian lands, an area three times the size of England. President Collor demonstrated his good intentions by appointing as Environment Secretary the country's most outspoken conservationist, Jose Lutzenberger, and by leading a drive to evict 40,000 gold prospectors from the territory of the Yanomami Indians.

In conversation with me last summer he acknowledged the folly of clearing rainforests to grow pasture and graze cattle on their

impoverished soils, and said he was determined to forbid it if elected president. He was also fully convinced of the wisdom of tapping renewable resources, whenever they are found in the temperate forests.

These views will provide a bond of common interest when the Prince of Wales visits Brazil in October. For the Prince returns to this vital aspect of rainforest conservation today in his address to the Rainforest Harvest conference at the Royal Geographical Society. His theme, a positive development of his February rainforest speech, will be that the intelligent harnessing of the world's richest ecosystem is the most constructive way to justify its protection.

The conference, bringing together scientists, native people and businessmen, will also hear examples of successful exploitation of renewable resources. By gathering the nuts, resins and fibres in a few hectares of their forests, peasant families near the mouth of the Amazon make \$10,000 a year, four times as much as if they had destroyed them to raise scrawny

cattle. Wild rubber is being tapped again in the western Brazilian state of Acre, and the local government has established an extractive reserve: an area where people may live and remove forest resources without destroying the trees.

Sustainable use of rainforests is no easy matter. It involves large-scale research. We still need to learn what the forests contain. The Royal Geographical Society's recent big Maracai Rainforest Project discovered more than 250 species new to science in one small part of northern Amazonia, and one of its botanists found a tree called Alexa that is full of an alkaloid that may in future be used to prevent Aids.

Ethnobotanists need to extract more knowledge from forest peoples, then ensure that they are properly rewarded if their skills are commercially exploited. There is a vast amount still to be learned about regeneration: tropical ecosystems are so complex that it is extremely difficult to replant forests that have been logged for their hardwoods. Pharmaceutical companies need to discover the benefits locked in millions of species of forest organisms. Tropical plants

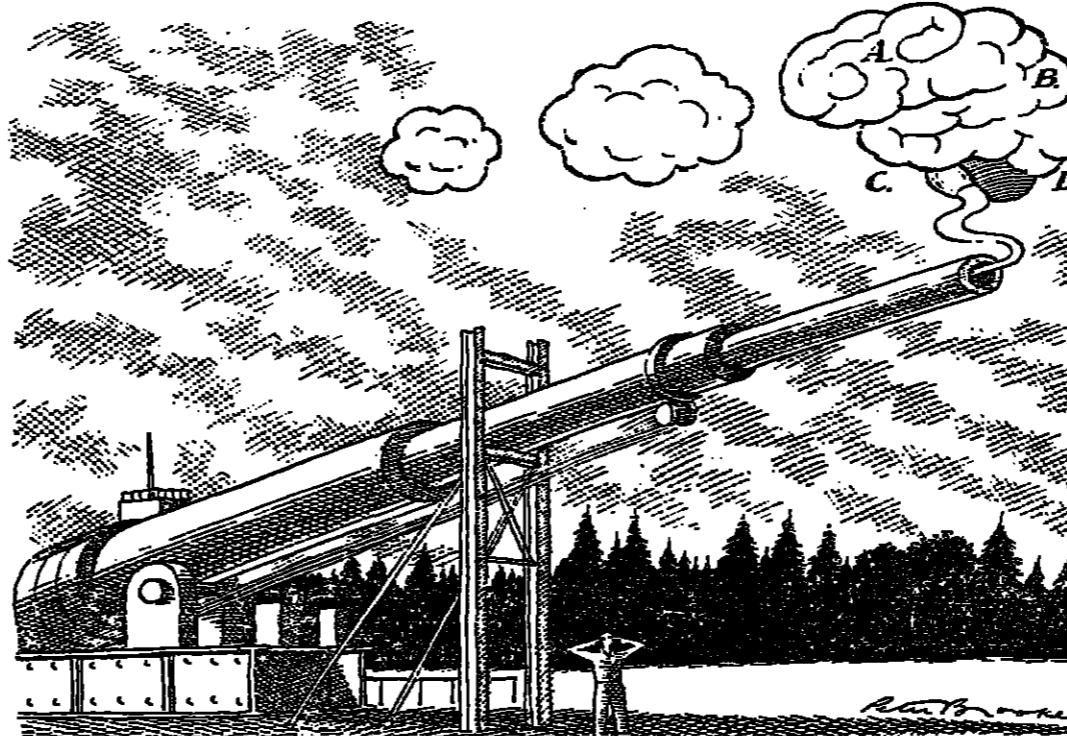
have already yielded medicines for Hodgkin's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, malaria, leukaemia, dysentery, hypertension, heart surgery and epilepsy, as well as a form of birth control and a well known brand of insecticide; but the search for botanically based cures has scarcely started.

Almost as daunting is the need for education. Politicians and landowners have to be convinced of the continuing tax revenue, export earnings and profits to be made from intelligently exploiting forests. Local people have to be persuaded to tap renewable resources, which can be more skilled and exhausting work than felling trees with chainsaws and matches. Traders, retailers and consumers must then be educated to buy exotic tropical products. We all enjoy cocoa, Brazil nuts, cashews, bananas, avocados and many other fruits of the forest, but it will take skilled marketing to make us familiar with the delicious tastes of cupucu or acai. These are practical ways of saving the rainforest.

The author is Director of the Royal Geographical Society.

Science with head in the air and finger on the trigger

Bernard Levin sees human intelligence, and a noble discipline, betrayed in the drive to build a supergun



argument over embryo research, apart, naturally, from assuming that whatever Lady Warnock believes, the opposite is almost certain to be true; but when it got to the bit about choosing — choosing, not predicting — the sex of an unborn child, I stopped and thought about India. When the technique gets there, and get there it assuredly will, there will be a demographic catastrophe without precedent in all history; so powerful is the desire (there are obvious economic reasons) for male children, that even the surreptitious killing of females at birth has long been practised, some say in considerable numbers.

For today's science cannot throw off responsibility for men like Bull, only if because it was in the present climate of science that he developed his beliefs. He was a genius, and therefore believed he could do whatever he wished with the guns he developed, without in any way being obliged to justify their use.

So obsessed was he with his abilities that he broke the law in the United States by selling weapons to South Africa, a criminal offence under American embargo laws, and went to prison. (He had become an American citizen, apparently in a huff because his native Canada would not give him the facilities he needed for his research, together with the *carte blanche* he wanted for the results.) But there is no evidence that he wished to supply South Africa with arms because he

admired apartheid; it is even unlikely that he did so because he would make money by the transaction. He seems to have made his fearsome weapons for no better reason than that he was able to make them, and nobody else could; from that followed the belief that those who bought them might as well use them.

He supplied Iraq with them during the Iran-Iraq war; nobody seems to be sure whether he was selling them to Iraq at the same time, but it is very likely; certainly he would have had no qualms about doing so. Indeed, it is clear that qualms were things he would not have noticed if he had woken up in the middle of the night and found them holding hands and dancing round his bed.

China, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Chile — any nation which would bow down and worship at his monster guns could buy them. And he certainly was not driven by ideology: though the superguns of recent notoriety were going to Iraq, no doubt to be turned against Israel, I am sure he was no more anti-Semitic or anti-Zionist than

Werner von Braun is the nearest parallel. He had at least the practical sense to hitch his wagon to one horse at a time — first Hitler, then the United States — whereas Bull would deal with anyone who had the space to erect one of his guns and the inclination to fire it. But the deeper similarity is what is important; it is the nature, rare and terrible, which is literally incapable of understanding moral terms like right and wrong, as a man blind from birth cannot understand colours. (It is only a coincidence that Bull's interest in long-range ballistics was kindled by the wartime German rockets which were devised by von Braun, but it is an entertaining one.) Most such people live obscure lives, though from time to time one may commit murder and get into the headlines; occasionally, however, they are men of gigantic intellect, with understanding beyond even the rest of their generation of scientists, analysing and innovating at a level which ordinary mortals not only cannot aspire to but cannot even recognize. What should we do, what can we do, with these? We usually claim that we take from them what is valuable and leave the rest, but it is an empty boast; many bought Dr Bull's goods, but did any manage to tie him for long to loyalty, wisdom or responsibility?

The world will play who-shot-him for years to come; there is no shortage of candidates. But my interest in him is now limited to the comforting thought that he is dead. I have no real hope that he will prove to be the last of his kind, but perhaps his fate will warn off a few. Anyway, there is an irony to relish in the fact that the man who made the world's biggest gun perished by one of the smallest.

he put it yesterday. "I arranged a circle of deckchairs, and we all sat down and waited to be evacuated." With about 40 other Dunkirk veterans, Taylor will today be at the Imperial War Museum for a reunion to celebrate the publication of Ronald Atkin's *Pillar of Fire: Dunkirk 1940*. According to Taylor, the men on the beach were very orderly and patient. "I had been slightly wounded in the shoulder, so I wandered off into the town — which was being bombed and shelled — to find medical help. On the way I had my hair cut by a barber and saw my face in a mirror for the first time for days. I looked about 40; I was 21."

Taylor was eventually evacuated after four days by a hospital ship, which was already drawing away when he arrived. "Someone leaning over the stern called to me to jump; which I did, clinging on with one hand. And he dragged me over the side. The clean, modern ship was like heaven after the hell of bombing, shelling and stinks I had left behind." Also present will be Albert Gaskin of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, who will be remembering his messmate Corporal Friday, according to the Imperial War Museum, the first British casualty of the war, killed on December 9, 1939.

Red faces at the White House; where visitors are liberally sprinkled with souvenir matchbooks embossed with the presidential crest. The firm which makes them has recently moved operations. Now, beneath the proud symbol of the United States' highest office, appear the words: "Made in Canada".

Cost defective benefits

The Department of Social Security has paid £6.4 million in rent for offices in central London that stood empty for 14 months. The lease on three storeys of the Adelphi building was signed in October 1988, but they remained unoccupied until January this year, when the first DSS staff arrived. Other staff are still waiting to move in and some 500 staff are eventually due to be accommodated at the 1930s building near Victoria Embankment, in a move designed to make the DSS's operations more cost-effective. When *The Times* put the unhappy tale to the relevant tenant, the DSS washed its hands of the matter. "The Department of Health is the estate manager. All inquiries should be directed to them, not us," said a spokesman.

For the Department of Health, a spokeswoman intoned: "It takes time to modify buildings. There were problems with the air conditioning and computer system, and partitions had to be put in. Ask the Property Services Agency." The PSA said to ask Property Holdings. It reluctantly confirmed that the DSS pays rent of £55 a square foot, which is near the upper end of the scale, because of the prime site the building occupies, and has been doing so for 18 months. Both Tory and Labour MPs yesterday said that they would raise the matter on the Commons Social Services Select Committee. The DSS decided that it needed the new office space to lead the way — yes, its economists.



the ancient tape-machines used to tap the KGB and manufactured by the British Ferrograph Company of South Shields. But to the disgust of British spooks, McEwan, normally noted for the meticulousness of his research, has attributed their manufacture to the Ampex Corporation of Redwood, California. One patriotic ex-spy said yesterday: "I suppose he was anxious to demonstrate that Britain was too technically incompetent to play anything other than a token part in Operation Gold."

Bully for you

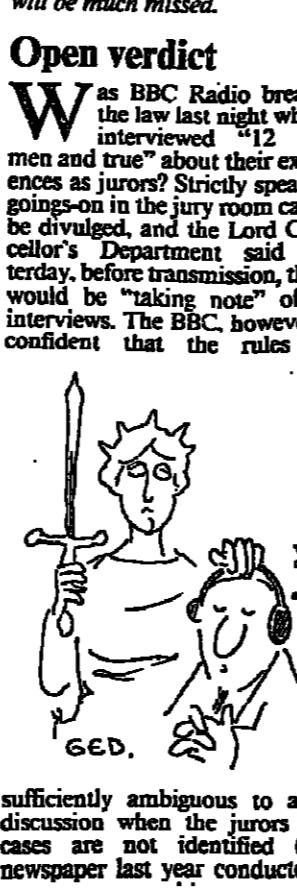
Tory MPs, loyal to the last to British beef, are staging their own tasting ceremony on the Commons Terrace today. The event has been organized by Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, who has also tabled a Commons motion condemning the relentless attack on British farmers by professors who he says display symptoms akin to BSE. Top of the menu will be steak supreme, prepared under the watchful eye of Cheltenham MP Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the Commons catering committee. A variety of beef dishes will be served to show solidarity with the beleaguered British cow. "British beef is the best in the world and just to prove we mean it we will eat it after it has been cooked in our very own Commons kitchens," enthuses Sir Charles.

McEwan's miss

Back in the days when there was a cold war, the CIA and MI6 mounted a joint operation to tunnel underneath the Berlin Wall, tap the KGB telephone cable and record the results on hundred of specially manufactured tape-recorders. Operation Gold is now the subject of two books: a non-fictional account by James Rusbridge entitled *The Intelligence Game* and a fictional treatment in Ian McEwan's latest novel, *The Innocent*. Rusbridge appeared on BBC2's *The Late Show* last week to talk about the operation, and produced one of

sufficiently ambiguous to allow discussion when the jurors and cases are not identified (this newspaper last year conducted a

set of trials).



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MAD COWS AND ENGLISHMEN

For all his smiling assurances, Mr John Gummer's handling of bovine spongiform encephalopathy does not inspire any more confidence than did his predecessor's handling of salmonella. Public nervousness over mad cow disease in Britain at the moment is not so much over the disease but over the official response. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would do well to address himself to this institutional malaise.

The condition is chronic and the symptoms well known. The public is fed on a diet of recycled official phrases – “offal” would not be too strong a word – about how everything is fine and there is nothing to worry about, mixed with nasty-tasting scare stories sometimes deriving from learned but non-governmental experts whose opinions no responsible journalist can ignore and no sensationalist apparently resist. The latter syndrome – mad press disease – is not exclusive. But shrewd ministers should nowadays at least build the dossier into their calculations.

Public bodies, such as those dealing with school or hospital meals, are irresponsible in reacting to the atmosphere of panic by sudden and capricious bans on all British beef products. The panic is based on ignorance, not all of which is excusable. There is a small risk in all food, including the most natural, but the circumstances in which the risk arises are not beyond analysis and rational assessment.

BSE is a disease of the brain and spinal cord of cattle, and the risk of infection is confined to the consumption of those parts, and even then only if there has not been adequate heat treatment. The possibility that BSE could be transferred to humans is speculative, based on the argument that the causative agent seems to have transferred from sheep to cattle, and therefore might conceivably jump the species barrier again. Drastic steps have already been enforced to remove BSE-infected meat from the animal and human food chain.

Spongiform encephalopathy is endemic in the sheep population, and known there as scrapie. There is no reason to believe British beef is now more dangerous to humans than British mutton and lamb has been for years. In so far as there is controversy among the

experts, this is largely about how to eradicate the disease from British cattle in due course, rather than how to protect the public now. Hence the formal public reassurance yesterday from the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson.

Food manufacture is advanced technology, driven by considerations of productivity and profit. The original transmission of the agent responsible for BSE seems to have occurred when the meat production business realized there could be even more profit if the industry consumed its own entrails by feeding protein extracted from the otherwise unmarketable parts of sheep to cows and perhaps to cats.

Whether nature has a taboo against feeding vegetarian animals to each other is for biologically-minded mystics to discuss. The rest of us can have no complaint at such profitable ingenuity, except when there appears the slightest risk of regulators and inspectors not doing their job. The industry requires close monitoring by independent authorities, and the Ministry of Agriculture requires a standard of clarity, openness and unequivocal truthfulness in public statements that has not, in the past, been characteristic.

A categorical assurance from Mr Gummer that no parts of any British animal known to be affected – or its offspring – are being consumed in any way, even as pet food and even abroad, is now necessary. If he gives that assurance, he is entitled to be believed. What worries the public is its total lack of confidence in ministerial assurances to date. The Government collectively has yet to convince sceptics that the changes in food safety introduced after the salmonella scare were more than cosmetic. There was then evidence of internecine civil servants and self-interested industrial and research lobbyists playing fast and loose with public concern. Complete ministerial disclosure of everything that is known or suspected about BSE is essential, preferably under cross-questioning by the forthcoming inquiry of the House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture. Intelligently applied scepticism is the quickest route back to public confidence in British beef.

A MATTER FOR BRITISH STEEL

Thatcherism has come to Ravenscraig and, some would say, not before time. Yesterday's announcement by British Steel of the closure of the strip mill at the steel complex near Motherwell was met with a predictable outcry in Scotland and at Westminster. The convenor of the shop stewards said that it was an outrage. The Scottish National Party said that it was “the grossest possible betrayal of one of the finest workforces anywhere in Europe”. The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, who had his unhappiest afternoon in the Commons since the fiasco over the poll tax rebate, described the decision as “arbitrary and unreasonable”.

The writing had long been on the wall for Ravenscraig, and in the clearest and firmest of hands. The four-and-a-half decades since the end of the war have seen the industrial face of Scotland change beyond recognition. Shipbuilding was the first to go. The car industry did not long survive the 60s. In the 1970s it was the turn of coal. Particularly since privatization, steel was bound to follow. The Scottish industry minister, Mr Ian Lang, made it plain earlier this year that there was nothing the Government either could or would do to save Ravenscraig from closure. “We take a hands-off approach”, he said, “and believe industrialists are better managers”. Investment decisions were for British Steel. These should be informed by economic rather than geographical criteria.

This makes Mr Rifkind's response in the Commons the more curious. The closure will initially entail the loss of almost 800 jobs, and could well mean the end of steel production in Scotland within four or five years. Sir Robert Scholey, the BSC chairman, spelled out the reasons in unemotional terms. Demand has fallen by more than 10 per cent in the past year. This, together with an increase in imports, has put the company under pressure to lower costs.

Yet what do Mr Rifkind and his Cabinet colleagues expect to happen? When Labour's

industry spokesman, Mr Gordon Brown, demanded that British Steel be summoned to “explain themselves”, the meaning was clear: public subsidy to keep the plant open. But BSC has no explaining to do. Its function, as its chairman repeated yesterday, is to present competitively-priced, high-quality steel. That is not a role they could long sustain if investment were to be misdirected to unprofitable enterprise. All over England, former steelworkers understand this point. Has 10 years of Conservative Government still not brought it home to Scotland, nor even to the Scottish Office?

It is as well for the Conservatives that the British Steel announcement did not come before the recent local elections and last week's reasonably successful party conference in Aberdeen. Mr Rifkind's embarrassment, however, is as nothing compared with that of his junior colleague, Mr Michael Forsyth, who is also the party's Scottish chairman. Mr Forsyth made an uncharacteristically accommodating call yesterday for “unity of purpose” between all of Scotland's political parties; the workers of Ravenscraig, he said, “deserve to be supported”. This will occasion some hilarity in other parts of the political spectrum because Mr Forsyth has been a leading apostle north of the border of free-market economics and a consistent critic of the “dependency” economy.

There is no law of nature which says that steel-making is essential to a nation's, or a region's, well-being. If banking, knitwear and electronics make more money, and offer more jobs, then those are the directions in which the formidable skills and energies of the Scottish people should be directed. A return to the government intervention to prop up uncompetitive industries that characterized Labour's last period in power is unthinkable. Messrs Rifkind and Forsyth should not, by their words, offer encouragement to such reaction.

ART IN THE MARKET-PLACE

Van Gogh's portrait of his doctor fetches almost £50 million at an auction in New York. Renoir's *Au Moulin de la Galette* is likely to go for nearly as much tonight. Monstrous! cry the killjoys. How can one painting be worth so much? Shame! cry the publicly-funded museums. How shall we ever be able to afford a masterpiece? Both should think again.

The price of a painting is determined – like the price of anything else – by supply and demand. The supply of Old Masters is, as the painters are now dead, fixed. Moreover, the supply entering the open market is small; partly because masterpieces are, by definition, rare treats, mainly because almost all have long since been snapped up by national museums.

Yet the demand has been rising fast: a consequence of 45 years of peace and prosperity, and of a relatively recent but welcome appreciation of Western culture by the East. The economies of America and Japan have been more successful than Britain's, so those two countries have more money to spend on art. But Britons can at least be grateful that, unlike the Japanese, they have had centuries to build up great collections of art, much of which was either expropriated from other countries or bought for very little.

The price of a painting should be exactly what the bidder who is keenest to buy it is prepared to pay. How else can a work of art be valued? There is every reason for a masterpiece – which gives immense aesthetic delight, and is, of course, unique – to fetch huge sums of money. Most countries' public museums have been priced out of the market for these record-breaking paintings. But if they were more flexible about

their own collections, they could increase the market supply of great paintings and hence bring the prices down to more affordable levels.

British museums were furious when the arts minister, Mr Richard Luce, suggested in 1987 that they might consider selling off unwanted works in order to broaden their collections. So vehement were they that he eventually backed off, saying he thought they should only think of disposing of duplicate works.

They should do more than that; but they should be wary about which works they sell. It is tempting to suggest that works that are not on display should be put up for sale to finance other purchases. That could be a mistake. Most of these works are hidden in basements because they are unfashionable. Now, they would go for a song; in a few decades' time, perhaps for large sums. Only 40 years ago, Victorian paintings were derided. Today they can fetch hundreds of thousands of pounds.

It would make more sense for the galleries to look at the balance of their displayed collections and see how they could be improved. The sale of one out of many Gainsboroughs might raise enough money to fill a whole new room dedicated to a lesser artist.

The artistic judgement of previous curators is not sacrosanct. Bequests and acquisitions since their time will have changed the balance they created. Now is the time for museum trustees to behave imaginatively. No collection is perfect; all can be strengthened. Railing against the market is not the most constructive way to go about the task.

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BSE and possible dangers in beef

From Professor Emeritus
Ivor H. Mills

Sir, The article by Dr James Le Fanu (“Taking an axe to crush a microbe”, May 15) does not do justice to the problem raised by the presence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in animals used for human consumption.

As members of the Endocrine Committee of the Medical Research Council in the 1970s, we had to consider the possible risk of spreading the similar human disease Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease by using pituitary glands from cadavers to prepare human growth hormone. Injection of this hormone is essential for children who do not grow because they lack the protein.

We went to considerable trouble and took advice from various experts, including those working on scrapie in sheep, to convince ourselves that the procedure to extract the growth hormone was safe. Nevertheless, a limited number of children around the world did develop Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, including two in this country.

The use of human pituitary growth hormone was stopped and fortunately bio-engineering enabled a totally different type of procedure to be used, avoiding the use of human pituitaries.

What I think we should learn from this is that it is not good enough to say the chances of harm, we think, are very small. It is unlikely that cows with BSE are not harbouring the active agent for some months before the cow manifests the disease. We must, therefore, take steps to ensure the safety of what we eat. Rigorous exclusion of the animal tissues involved from the food of humans and animals is essential.

If BSE is like scrapie, the lymphoid tissue is involved in the

early infective stage and this (spleen, thymus, tonsils and intestines) must be rejected as well as the brain and spinal cord. It must be done with sufficient care that potentially infected tissues cannot contaminate the meat we are to eat.

It is unwise to allow the use of these tissues from calves under six months, as at present, just because in scrapie they are not obviously infective at that stage. We do not know that the agent is not transmitted from mother to young at the time of birth. The forceful exclusion of all the tissues from sheep and cattle which could carry the agent is the most essential precaution.

The report that British beef will not be provided by some authorities in meals for schoolchildren does not reflect a sensible precaution. The muscle of infected animals appears to be safe as shown by our consumption over several decades of meat from sheep, some of which might be carrying scrapie at the stage when it is not obvious. The risks must be much greater from made up meat products when unscrupulous people could allow some of the banned tissues to get into the prepared foods.

It must similarly be just as potentially dangerous to allow the banned tissues to be used to feed chickens and pigs, just because in these species when it appears it is too late, as we now know with cattle.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR H. MILLS,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Douglas House,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Trumpington Road,
Cambridge.
May 16.

Future of the mail

From the General Secretary,
Union of Communication
Workers

Sir, Your special report on the Royal Mail (May 8) failed to alert the public to the possibility of a serious reduction in service. Make no mistake, the Royal Mail would like to know if the public would be prepared to accept a single, later delivery.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director, asserts that if customers signal that current service standards are “not so important to them”, this would allow delivery staff to enjoy more attractive attendance times. What he does not mention is that abandoning the second delivery would boost profits by giving a worse service with around 10,000 fewer delivery staff.

The union agrees that the problems of increasing mail volumes and a shrinking labour market are very real and must be tackled with vision. We doubt whether the public would accept just one delivery throughout the day, even with guarantees on the overnight mail.

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN TUFFIN,
General Secretary,
The Union of Communication
Workers, UCW House, Crescent Lane, SW4.

Campbell libel case

From Commander H. St. A.
Mallison, RN (Ret)

Sir, Having spent much time in Montagu whalers in the past, notably in Fleet and flotilla regattas, I was interested in the letter from Mr Rivington on the subject (May 9).

The bow oar was normally placed on starboard, but when taking part in pulling races, the side chosen depended on the weight and strength of the bow oar. Whalers could be of 25ft or 27ft length – mostly the latter. They were better under sail than oars, but in either case they were hardly seafarers.

I still have two silver model oars as mementoes of winning crews in Atlantic Fleet regattas in 1930.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MALLESON,
Bear House, Dallington,
Heathfield, East Sussex.

From the Director of HMS Belfast
Sir, I was most interested in Mr Rivington's letter about the techniques of cut-throat rowing in a Montagu whaler.

Keith C. Pettitt
5 Gauless Terrace,
Copley,
Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham.

May 11.

can be as severe (and much slower to heal) as any caused by a stick or a stone and citizens of a civilized country need adequate remedies for both. Bernard Levin's self-denying ordinance against the use of the services of the fibel lawyer may not be much of a high-minded sacrifice for someone who has the platform of a weekly column in a major national newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN RAYMOND (Partner),
Bindman & Partners, Solicitors,
1 Euston Road,
King's Cross, NW1.

May 10.

From Mr Michael Rubinstei

Sir, Right, many may think Bernar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

British help for Eastern Europe

From Dr R. G. Bowers

Sir, “Where are the British?” asks R. H. Nicholson (May 8) in terms of English language teaching (ELT) for Eastern Europe. Had he asked the authorities in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic he would have got the answer.

Voluntary Service Overseas will be putting British teachers into Poland – not at random but into those institutions where they will have the greatest impact. The demand is huge – an additional 100,000 teachers needed across Eastern Europe by the end of the decade – and it will not be met by short-term expedients. We, with the new authorities, are looking at systemic change through training, books, examinations. This is a big investment but one which the British Council, with whole-hearted Government support, is prepared to make.

And of course all offers of scholarships and attachments under Know-How funding and existing programmes carry with them the provision of language tuition where necessary. Mr Nicholson's doctors from Charles University need have no fear on this score, and the Council office in Prague will make the necessary arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BOWERS (Controller,
English Language and Literature),
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.
May 10.

establish those governments' own priorities for spending the significant funds which HM Government has already earmarked for ELT.

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administrative and local government law seminar both to be held in Krakow. The British delegation will be under the leadership of Lord Ackner and Sir Frank Leyfield, QC.

On September 24, a workshop seminar on commercial law in Warsaw will be led by Professor Roy Goode, QC, the Norton Rose Professor of Law at Oxford. A scheme of establishing a Faculty of English Law at a Polish university is under consideration; a judicial exchange next year is at a planning stage, and further legal training and other legal activities in 1991 are contemplated.

Some of the work we do is still privately funded and all of it voluntary. There can be no doubt that the taxpayer is receiving good value for comparatively little money. Most important of all, our activities are carried out in conjunction with the Polish National Bar Council or their Ministry of Justice.

Yours faithfully,
RAWLINSON, President,
GEORGE DOBYN, Chairman,
British Polish Legal Association,
40 Chester Row, SW1.
May 16.

Poll tax benefits

From the Leader of Wandsworth
Borough Council

Sir, Your allegation about “manipulation of government grants to certain ‘flagship’ London councils” (leading article, May 8) is wrong. Wandsworth achieved the lowest community charge in mainland Britain despite the lowest level of government grant in inner London.

Although Wandsworth benefits from the safety-net redistribution between authorities, we benefit less than several other London boroughs, and the sum involved is so small that without it we would still enjoy one of the lowest charges in England. Wandsworth residents voted last week for Conservatives to continue their long record of low-cost good quality services, and not, as you implied, in a short-sighted response to an electoral bribe.

However reluctant you may be to acknowledge it, the community charge could achieve its aim of strengthened accountability, given time and stability.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BERESFORD,
Leader,
Wandsworth Borough Council,
Leader's Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.
May 9.

I am sure that readers would like to know that the technical term for rowing in the Royal Navy is “pulling”. It appears that the term arises because naval seamen were not very concerned with the finer points of rowing, such as feathering the oar at the end of each stroke, but more concerned with getting the blade square into the water and pulling it through with maximum force.

Yours faithfully,
TONY COLLINS, Director,
HMS Belfast, Morgans Lane,
Tooley Street, SE1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 16: His Excellency Mr J'adore de Virion was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Poland to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Zbigniew Matuszak (Counselor), Commander Kazimierz Gwiazdowski (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Mr Karol Drozd (Counselor, Cultural Affairs), Mr Flor Jedrzejowicz (Counselor, Maritime Affairs), Mr Leszek Zapalański (Counselor), Mr Janusz Dluzynski (First Secretary) and Mr Krzysztof Jakubowski (First Secretary).

Mrs de Virion was received by Her Majesty.

Mr Roger Tomkys (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Air Marshal Sir John Sutton was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Jersey.

Lady Sutton was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Edward Sharland (British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea) and Mrs Sharland were received by The Queen.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief Royal Canadian Regiment, left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for Canada where His Royal Highness will visit the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment at Canadian Forces Base, Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Major Sir Guy Acland, Bt, was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the arrival of The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Mrs Mubarak and welcomed Their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 16: The Prince Royal, President, Windsor Horse Trials, this morning held a Windsor Horse Trials Press Conference at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, afterwards attended a General Purposes Committee Meeting of the British Olympic Association at 1 Wandsorth Place, SW18.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, President, Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust, attended the Trust's Annual General Meeting at the Victory Services Club.

Afterwards The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, attended a Council Meeting of the Royal Yachting Association at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge. Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

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skills to business success.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, received Mr Stephen O'Brien. Subsequently His royal Highness gave a lunch for business leaders.

The Princess of Wales attended the National AIDS Trust Conference "Women, AIDS and the Future" at the Commonwealth Institute, W8.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited the Isle of Wight and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (The Lord Montagu).

Her Royal Highness visited the Adelaide Club, Ryde, and was later entertained at luncheon by the Chairman of the Isle of Wight County Council.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon opened the Sandown and Community Hall at Newchurch.

Her Royal Highness later opened the St Vincent Holiday Apartments built by the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops at Ryde.

Mrs Charles Vyvyan and Major The Lord Napier and Erick were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 16: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, The Order of St John, this afternoon received the Right Reverend Michael Mann as a Knight of the Order and subsequently enthroned him as Prior of the Order at the Grand Prior Church of St John, Clerkenwell, London EC1. Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Counsel and Care for the Elderly, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting at Plesister's Hall, 1 London Wall, London EC2.

In the evening Her Royal Highness attended a concert in aid of the Surgical Laser Appeal for the Middlesex Hospital at Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

May 16: The Duke of Kent, as Patron, this morning attended the British Menswear Guild's Annual General Meeting at Wool House, Carlton Gardens, London SW1 and later attended the Guild's Luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Mr Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the International Social Service of Great Britain, this morning visited the International Spring Fair at Kensington Town Hall, London W8.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Newbury Spring Festival, this evening attended a Festival Concert given by the Philharmonic Orchestra in St Nicholas Church, Newbury, Berkshire.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

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ARTS

As yet another Ibsen production opens, Benedict Nightingale considers the appeal of the Norwegian playwright

More than filial devotion

We do not seem able to keep that grim 19th-century seer off our late 20th-century stages. Indeed, the flow of Ibsen revivals has been threatening to break through the theatre's flood walls. *The Master Builder*, *Peer Gynt*, *When We Dead Awaken* and *Hedda Gabler* have all been revived at important addresses in recent months. And tonight, as if to celebrate what also happens to be Norwegian National Day, comes Peter Hall's production of *The Wild Duck* to the Phoenix.

Is it just a case of acknowledged classics making up for a shortage in the supply of new plays? The enthusiasm generated by John Wood's Solness at the RSC and Juliet Stevenson's Hedda at the National surely demands some less negative, less cynical explanation. Is it a collective act of respect to the father of modern realism? That is like regularly journeying by steam train to honour George Stephenson, father of rail travel.

The only reason to present any play is that, whenever and wherever it was actually written, it somehow remains contemporary. Perhaps Ibsen is more authentically up-to-the-minute than yesterday's trendy triumph.

Certainly, his prime subject is not one that obviously dates. As Ibsen sees it, we have an absolute duty to discover ourselves, become whosoever enlightened nature meant us to be, maximize our own freedom over all petty obstacles and silly encroachments. And those personal imperatives which have become very obvious in the Britain of the Eighties.

One might almost say that we have spent the decade defining liberty and discussing its rights and wrongs, its scope and boundaries. No wonder Ibsen is near the top of the theatrical agenda.

One might describe his mature oeuvre, from *Brand* to *When We Dead Awaken*, as a long, evolving debate about the nature of individuality itself. But that sounds too abstract, too academic. Rather, it is a series of vivid case-studies in which people are to be found groping, floundering, flailing through fogs, thickets and swamps in search of something as elusive as the Grail itself.

"I must think things out, try to find my own answer, discover what is right for me," Nora tells



Grim? Henrik Ibsen, 1828-1906

Torvald as she prepares to slam out of the doll's house he has luxuriously built her. She might be speaking for every character from Peer Gynt, who persistently mistakes folly and compromise for self-fulfilment and truth, to the desperate, disappointed old men of Ibsen's last work.

Ibsen's emphasis changes, deepens with time. In the prose plays he wrote after the verse *Peer Gynt* in 1867, the problem is at first a society whose totems and taboos, pieties and constraints, snarl the body, clamp the mind, and end by hobbling the soul itself. It transforms Torvald into a smug domestic tyrant, Pastor Manders in *Ghosts* into an oppressive hypocrite, and Hedda Gabler from a fine, free spirit into a destructive neurotic. It defines Stockmann, the small-town health officer whose tactlessness unsettles the status quo, as *An Enemy of the People*.

Yet Ibsen came increasingly to see that the threat is not only, or even primarily, external. The inner perils are more powerful. There is, for instance, hereditary as well as environment. Oswald may resist those "old dead ideas and old dead beliefs" his mother sums

plays, *The Master Builder* to *When We Dead Awaken*. Ibsen wrote them at a time when he was developing embarrassing crushes on a series of young women, and, consistently enough, they often involve ageing men's attempts to fan their emotional ashes into life. But how can one radically change the person one has inexorably made oneself?

When *Master Builder* Solness plunges into the all-too-symbolic tower he has rashly climbed, or sculptor Rubek is buried beneath an avalanche at the end of *When We Dead Awaken*, that is the lesson of Ibsen's criticism of Ibsen.

Certainly, it demonstrates two things. First, that Ibsen did not pursue his own emotional crusade so single-mindedly that he saw no need for qualifications or caveats. Second, that he mistrusted all "isms", even when they involved himself.

He cannot be categorized as conservative or liberal or radical. Indeed, both in his life and in his work he made no secret of his contempt for politicians, bureaucrats, journalists and other public people, believing that "there is absolutely no reasonable necessity for the individual to be a citizen" and that "the state is the curse of the individual".

Perhaps he is best described as a mandarin anarchist. "Aristocracy of the spirit" was the allegiance he admitted; but one suspects he would have quarrelled with his fellow-nobles, as he did with so many of his friends.

It is dangerous, even fatal, this search for self-fulfilment. That is the lesson of *The Wild Duck*, too. Ibsen wrote this immediately after *An Enemy of the People*, in 1884, and it comes across as a corrective to that play's proselytizing libertarianism. Some people just cannot face too much reality.

Greters Werle, that crusader for truth, does nothing but injury to Hjalmar Ekdal, the chronic self-deceiver, when he reveals that his daughter Hedwig may not be his own. As Shaw saw, this was an attack on "sham Ibsenism", on the sort of slavish disciple who

DONALD COOPER



Claire Bloom and Espen Skjønberg in *When We Dead Awaken* at the Almeida in March this year

Staring into the bleak Chinese future is not very entertaining

EDWARD Lam, one of the co-ordinators of Zuni Icosahedron's production, disclaimed the label of political theatre in an interview on this page yesterday; but whatever the intentions of its creators, that is how London audience must inevitably view the performance of a company from Hong Kong in a work on the subject of the Deep Structure of Chinese Culture.

And a bleak outlook it is, as one would expect. Almost the only "colourful" elements are provided

DANCE

John Percival

Zuni Icosahedron Bloomsbury

by sections of the soundtrack. At the beginning, different voices are heard repeating, unmelodiously, over and over, a children's song: "China is a lovely garden

... Everybody's happy and gay."

That tune recurs briefly, in a bump-and-grind version for dance band, towards the end. Then, in the final moments are brought in a soloist, choir and orchestra for a version of "Land of Hope and Glory".

The irony needs no underlining. Elgar thunders out to an empty stage and a blank back wall. All the rest of the show consists of sad, reserved figures in a grey space, staring into the distance, almost always backwards, as if into the past. It is a striking visual metaphor, but even with handsomely composed poses and groupings, cunning variations and repetitions, contrasts of speed in changing positions, it looks overstretched at 70 minutes' duration.

The lighting provides the most dramatic moments. Switch a lamp on or off, and a figure appears or disappears startlingly behind gauzes which hang across the stage.

There are the sounds of machinery or traffic, shrill bells, high-pitched chatter, going on all the time, but only as background. These people might as well be in a place as silent as it is grey, for all the notice they take of it.

Stage, stare; nothing but stare. One scuttles crouched on hands and feet, one pushes a broom which finally stretches a strip of red across the stage. Individualists. But when one man walks on a couple of times without clothes, there seems no point to it.

It all makes a bleak evening. But then to be Chinese and living in Hong Kong might be rather bleak.

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Rum evening at the dinner-table

EVEN the best-laid dinner parties can go horribly wrong. The mayor of a Silesian village has local dignitaries round for supper. He has to contend with the Plague raging outside (it is the 1660s), a servant who goes berserk and is found dead under the dining-table, and guests who row violently about religion. His wife chooses this, of all nights, to confess that she once had sex with a runaway black slave in Amsterdam, and the mayor himself feels compelled to admit that the half-witted young woman creeping about in a trance is his own bit-on-the-side.

The memorable offstage cry of "Wurgsdorf is on fire!" signals that war has broken out again, and into the dining room stalks a grisly skeletal figure with a black skull, torchlit eyes and a large scythe. As Grim Reapers go, this one is quite jolly - he does some athletic pirouettes on the staircase, for example - but the mayor's guests probably would have preferred the arrival of after-dinner mints.

To cap it all, that black slave

and a gloomy Gothic monstrosity of a set only add to the feeling that Hammer horror has escaped into the world of music.

Credit is due, nevertheless, to the Brighton Festival for bringing over the Polish State Opera of Poznan for this UK premiere.

After all, Penderecki is still a major European composer. In this piece, however, he has little new to say. Some ghostly "whoosh-whoosh" sounds and massed choral gongs are effective, but the dense orchestral sonorities - either low and brutish, or high and overwrought - are too familiar, the organ chords at melodramatic moments too reminiscent of Boris Karloff on celluloid, and the use of a big offstage chorus to hurt out the "Dies irae" far too obvious.

On stage, the only singer given an extended solo was Ewa Werka as the errant wife, and she delivered a Lucia-like mad scene with great verve. The conductor, Mieczyslaw Donajewski, generally held a complex score together competently.

OPERA

Richard Morrison

The Black Mask Dome, Brighton

(the one who bedded the lady of the house, if you recall) appears through the French windows - amazing how easily black slaves travelled through eastern Europe in the 17th century - and prowls around menacingly, leaving a sooty handprint on the spotless white tablecloth. This is not an evening which would amuse the race-relations industry.

Although Krzysztof Penderecki's 1986 one-act opera, *The Black Mask* (based on a Gerhart Hauptmann play) has enough plot to fuel a dozen Umberto Eco mysteries, the action seems entirely without motive or logic. There are so many loose ends that the audience ends up laughing, not quaking. Some vintage ham-act-

ing and a gloomy Gothic monstrosity of a set only add to the feeling that Hammer horror has escaped into the world of music.

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Comic domestic drama: a scene from *Absurd Person Singular*

Macabre mirth

THEATRE

Harry Eyres

Absurd Person Singular Whitehall

splendid range of scurrying, scuttling movements and ghostly, gargoyle-like grimaces. As his wife Jane, Lavinia Bertram expertly forfeits the limited sympathy she has earned in the first act with an increasingly braying laugh.

The two other couples, in becoming less successful, do gain in humanity. In the final act, Donald Douglas finds a depth in Ronald, the bank manager, which goes beyond his earlier lugubrious *gravitas*; the look on his face after he has said that his effect on his wife has been sedative is infinitely sad.

Moira Redmond is magnificent as his wife Marion. Outrageously snobbish in the first act, she rises to the self-dramatizing climax of the third act, when she brings an almost Lear-like combination of grandeur and absurdity to her drunken laments of lost beauty.

Only Jeff Shankley and Jennifer Wiltsie disappoint slightly as Geoff and Eva: he never captures the laddish swagger which should precede hangdog failure, and she (excellent in *Invisible Friends* at Christmas) seems too calm an actress to play a neurotic wreck. Michael Hol's design makes kitchen décor a hermeneutic art. The play is, for much of its length, achingly funny.

Not such a novel idea

Jeremy Kingston

The Writing Game Birmingham Rep

Oxford novelist at the menopause, and the story (quite funny) she then reads, from the lecturer's chair that pops up in front of the stage, conveys no trace of her raunchy lifestyle. As for the obnoxious British *Wunderkind*, his ingeniously barren substitute for a novel puts him in the American's camp.

If this analysis of the structure sounds a tad arid that is what the play becomes, despite the occasional shrewd *aperçu*, and though John Adams' direction could hardly be called inventive, except in the wittily chosen songs between scenes, it is difficult to see what tactics he could employ to bring the dispute to life.

Lou Hirsch's dogged dolefulness as the American has a sort of integrity. But Susan Penhaligon's feline preening is excessive. She delivers each line as if it encapsulates the sense of the scene: couples the author forgot to put into rhyme.

Patrick Pearson's cynical smart-ass would probably look a more intriguing character on the page, where a narrative voice could blast hell out of him. The characters feel empty in its absence.

Rainbow patchwork

Michael Wright

Paper and Stone Lyric Studio

THERE is flair, intelligence, and much to mull over in this refreshing Black Theatre Co-operative play, directed by Pam Fraser Solomon, examining the emotional conflicts of black women making the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Brenda (Marcia Rose) is a young *ingénue*, dumpy and frumpish in her Edwardian Sunday-school best, ridiculously overprotected by a devout straitjacket of a mother (Susan Lyett), but happy enough in her safe world of church and chastity. Happy enough until Juliette (Catherine Coffey) - a little, streetwise orphan - turns up and whiskers her into the "fast lane" of council flats, men and misery.

This basic plot-structure provides a pretext for a wide-ranging exploration of colour, sex, motherhood and more. Despite a distinct slackening in the second half, writer Zindika's achievement lies in her fluent inter-weaving of naturalistic action with related, stylized scenes. An animated patchwork quilt emerges, as prose gives way to poetry or to song, the actresses swaying and stamping accompaniment to the velvet lit of their magical two-part chants. The combined effect is ravishing.

An earthy vitality powers the drama, reciprocal *jouie de vivre* from the audience occasionally threatening to overtake the underlying seriousness. At times, the play resembles a "message" drama, summed up by the predictable, but indulgent, clenched-fist salutes of the final tableau; at others, a gentle Adrienne Maloan.



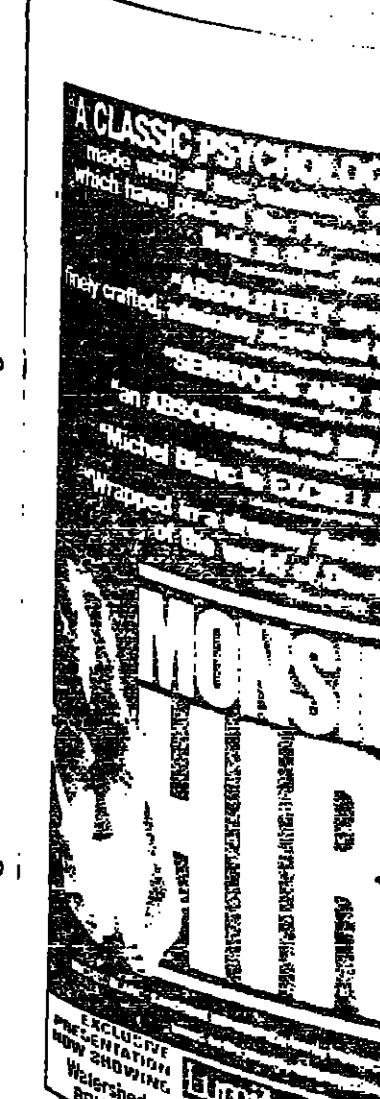
Litter Juliette (Catherine Coffey)
satire on problems of growing up.

The blue and yellow contours of the set (part naturalistic interior, part phallic carrot forest) make a giant *Mappa Mundi* of the stage. This rainbow play does indeed cover a lot of ground; if sometimes it seems a little over-stretched, there is constant delight in the sheer elasticity of the performers, the two younger actresses vibrating like electrons around Susan Lyett's memorable Jamaican nucleus.



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ARTS

Mr Wonderful

Sammy Davis Jnr, who died yesterday, overcame physical disability and racial bigotry to become one of America's most successful entertainers. John Russell Taylor pays tribute



In the air: On the set of *Soldiers Three*, Davis's 1961 western, wearing a hat loaned by John Wayne

The label of all-round entertainer can be difficult, both to live up to and to live down. Being jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none, they rely heavily on a kind of generalized audience affection, and a public sympathy with the fact that they pay their dues and have a go.

Sammy Davis Jnr had some advantages in the struggle to become the conventional "lovely fellow", big in show-business charities and suchlike, into which most famed showbiz all-rounders decline. He had a touch of the devil in him, enough neither to achieve nor to need that sort of following. Indeed, there were times in his career when the devil was, for good or ill, the most prominent feature in the make-up of his public personality. He was not necessarily good at making friends and influencing people; he sometimes seemed to be deliberately refusing to do so. His second marriage, to the Swedish actress Mai Britt, raised more hackles in 1960 than it would now. His conversion to Judaism (when he was 26, after the car crash in which he lost an eye) displeased his black fans and did not seem to endear him to his Jewish fans either. His instant cross-over from being an enthusiastic supporter of Kennedy and the Democrats to an equally

enthusiastic courtier of Richard Nixon did not do him much good with anyone.

All of this is largely irrelevant, of course, to his quality as a performer - but not completely. Katharine Hepburn once said that the true star has to have the quality to irritate. And this is what the devil in Sammy Davis certainly gave him. He excited strong emotions in his audiences; for some he was the man you loved to hate, who was magnetic because of, rather than in spite of, his physical ugliness.

The key to his effect, always, was energy. The viewer can see it sparkling away there, in the extraordinary film record of Sammy Davis very junior, tapping his way into his audience's hearts at the age of six or thereabouts.

And energy was always the most overwhelming thing about him

performing live; he seemed to be the sort of person who could not live less than 25 hours a day, who had to have so many talents because it would not have occupied enough of his attention to have merely the one.

Overall, despite a number of effective performances as a straight actor, and a pleasing readiness to indulge in the knockabout, improvisatory antics, so characteristic of Frank Sinatra's "Rat Pack" on screen, it was as a

musical performer that Davis really shone and will be remembered. It was a musical, *Mr Wonderful*, which first brought him stage success on Broadway (and he later encouraged his publicity men to promote the "Mr Wonderful" tag).

In fact, the quality of his films was not as high as it might have been: he was probably at his personal best in the best of them, as a splendidly insinuating Sportin' Life in *Preminger's* heavyweight *Porgy and Bess*, and parodying himself as the huckster preacher in Bob Fosse's *Sweet Charity*.

He could style a song as no one else could: that is to say, his style was unmistakable, and with suitable material it was unarguable. His dancing, learnt in early childhood, was his own personal extrapolation of the traditional tap routine and the sort of slippery, snaky movements natural to his ever-skiny physique.

If people did not necessarily take to him without question as a performer, at least there was no way that anyone could ignore his presence, or doubt that he was a complete original. It is only a pity that he gave so much to a five audience, and that so little of it is left on film.

Obituary, page 16



In action: A classic pose from a show for London Weekend Television, during one of his many British visits

Geoff Brown reviews the latest cinema releases: *Torrents of Spring*, *Max, mon amour*, *Leviathan*, and *The Gods Must Be Crazy II*

Classic mix of costumes, cobblestones and cosiness

A surge of magic opens *Torrents of Spring* (PG, Curzon West End) as a coach and four horses, perched on a barge, are ferried across the open waters off Venetian shores. The camera keeps its distance, savouring the shot's incongruity and mystery - a perfect opening for Jerzy Skolimowski's bewitching adaptation of the short novel by Ivan Turgenev. To be sure, the director never strays far beyond the usual conventions of the filmed literary classic. Carriages ramble along cobble streets; nature looks its best; light filters prettily into cosy interiors where characters parade in finery fresh off the peg from nine costumers.

Nonetheless, Skolimowski consistently keeps audiences on their toes: the quizzical tone; the daring shots and infections, all help to prove that a lively director stands at the helm.

Timothy Hutton heads an unusually coherent international cast as Dimitri Sanin, a young Russian aristocrat doing the Grand Tour of Europe. In Mainz, he falls for the comically simplicities of an Italian pastry cook (persuasively played by Valeria Golino, late of *Rain Man*); he plans marriage, encouraged by the thought of rescuing the damsel from an odious, preening fiancée. But Sanin's vanity makes him an easy target for the seductive games of a fellow Russian, Maria (Nastassja Kinski), in auburn ringlets, every inch the *femme fatale*.

The conflicting romances unfurl against a deliciously evoked social panorama: from a country fair to a

gentlemen's duel; from a polite night at the opera to a passionate tête-à-tête in a ruined castle; from the bustling Mainz pâtisserie to the luxurious hotel where Maria wickedly brings together the triangle's three corners.

Skolimowski's colourful set pieces are neatly balanced by a litter of small, precise moments:

the totterings of Sanin's aged second at the duel ("You may - fire!"); the croaks, or the coming and going of household cats, which ironically puncture the human drama. The end result may look slight when placed alongside



Nastassja Kinski: femme fatale in *Torrents of Spring*

earlier Skolimowski works such as *Deep End* and *Le départ*, but *Torrents of Spring* extracts all the juices from Turgenev's ruseful tale of young romantic folly. The film also shows this gifted if uneven director surviving healthily in the booby-trapped field of international co-productions.

Back in the mists of 1983, Nagisa Oshima, the Japanese director of *Empire of the Senses* and *Diary of a Shinjuku Thief*, put aside some of his art-house rigour and plunged into the English-language mainstream with Tom Conti, David Bowie and *Merry*

Christmas, Mr Lawrence. This P.O.W. camp drama - intelligent, haunting, accessible - seemed to set Oshima on a new road. What would follow, we all wondered.

The curious answer, three years

later, was *Max, mon amour* (18, ICA Cinema): a matter-of-fact treatment of an extraordinary

menage-a-trois, embracing a bouri

gois but broad-minded husband,

an enigmatic wife, and the wife's lover - a chimpanzee called Max.

The film, produced in France by Luis Buñuel's former partner

Serge Silberman, generated much

comment on the festival circuit,

but little real enthusiasm. So far,

Oshima has not made a film since

is the new road a cul-de-sac?

Four years further on in 1990,

at least *Max, mon amour* can be seen in Britain (copyright problems have kept it hidden). Anthony Higgins, elegantly bland as usual, is the bemused husband, an Embassy official in Paris with a visit from the Queen looming. Charlotte Rampling - an exquisite sphinx with impenetrable stares and tightly pursed lips - plays the wife who bought Max from the zoo after an exchange of meaningful stares. Max himself is only occasionally a real chimp; Aisha Berk, an English acrobat and dancer in convincing ape makeup, carries the burden of the part.

Oshima observes the bizarre affair with conventional, placid camera set-ups, his tongue clamped firmly in his cheek. The dialogue, panned and conceived by another Buñuel colleague, Jean-Claude Carré, maintains the same straight-faced mood,

delighting in surrounding *amour* for with conversational niceties. "He's very attached to Margaret," Higgins explains to his dinner guests after the doting chimp - fetched from his room following disruptive screeches - cuddles sensuously to his equally doting mistress.

The director's low-key style allows for some pleasantly cool sartre of bourgeois values. Oshima also generates the odd touching moment between Rampling and her simian flame. But the film's airless elegance soon brings diminishing returns. Oshima's buttoned-down approach also shrouds interesting questions about human-animal relationships and the nature of sexual jealousy: we glimpse them under the surface banter, but they lie largely unexplored. The film is photographed by Raoul Coutard, master cameraman of the French New Wave, though the present print's tepid colours only increase the feeling of disappointment.

Carelessly submerged in the film *Alien* 10,000 feet underwater, and you might get something like *Leviathan* (18, Odeon Marble Arch). Instead of a seven-strong spacecraft under attack from an alien being, an eight-strong deep-sea mining station faces the ravages of a monster fish left over from genetic experiments on a wrecked Soviet freighter. The darling creature changes shape constantly, incorporating features from its human feast: a face here, a leg there, voked together in a mess of scales and membranes.

"My task," the director George Pan Cosmatos has said, "is to find the humanity behind the hardware." But beneath the medium-tech special effects, he only uncovers a rusty consignment of clichés: the mining company callously pursuing profits, the blue-eyed he-man hero (Peter Weller), the discredited doc (Richard Crenna), the decorative girl who strips at every opportunity (Amanda Pays). This tiresome film - largely produced in Italy by members of the De Laurentiis clan - certainly delivers the goods; but the goods are immodestly shop-soiled.

Once upon a time, the South African director Jamie Uys made wildlife films, cutely packaged with music and commentary. In *Beautiful People*, he made warthogs dance to Offenbach. Uys then cutely packaged African natives in *The Gods Must Be Crazy* - a clumsy comedy pitting a Kalahari Bushman against modern civilization - which found a large international audience. The *Gods Must Be Crazy II* (PG, Cannon Oxford Street) offers slightly greater technical polish, though the air of contrivance - not to mention condescension - still hangs horribly heavy. A real-life Bushman, NXN, repeats his role as the friendly Bushman weaving through another cross-section of Western civilization as he searches for his two missing children. From stuttering beginnings, the film builds up to a dribble of crude visual comedy, securely aimed at the unsophisticated.

Case of ill-treatment

TELEVISION
Jasper Rees

TELEVISION, once quaintly regarded as a form of domestic entertainment, seems to have turned into an international court of appeal. After Tuesday night's *Ivan the Terrible*, an investigation which forcefully suggested that in John Demjanjuk the Israelis have got the wrong man, and know it,

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Faithfull to depressing songs of yesteryears

ROCK
Jasper Rees

Marianne Faithfull
Dominion

PICTURE a suave lady of the night giving a recital of bitter, broken songs in the manner of a Brechtian muse, and you will have some idea of the sort of experience served up by Marianne Faithfull in her lone night at the Dominion Theatre. It was all very perplexing. Her singing voice is as ghoulish as ever, while her spoken voice still offers up a dim glimpse of the plummy, pre-disco convent girl of yesteryear.

This ambiguity shows up in her gestures too. Whenever she did not have a cigarette to hand, Faithfull would slowly, tortuously pump her left arm up and down from sternum to hip: it was deeply expressive, but expressive of what? It might have denoted anguish in some New Age sign-language, but alternatively she might just have been toying with the idea of undoing the buttons on her black satin blouse.

This she did much later, to reveal a black cocktail dress hugging a nowadays thicker figure, but before that, she croaked and crackled her way through a series of astutely selected covers. Though she performed a couple of pallid songs she recently composed with Barry Reynolds, her deft accompanist on acoustic guitar, Faithfull is supreme as an interpreter of other peoples' work: especially depressing songs by such happy-go-lucky as Tom Waits, John Lennon and Leonard Cohen.

Faithfull proceeded to material from *Broken English*, the 1979 album which established her reputation as more than just a miked-up Sixties bimbo icon, which brought out the whining warts in

a lager-loutish section of the audience, but still kept up the spell.

They ruined the angry pornographic of "Why'd Ya Do It?" - a song which contains probably the crudest lyrics ever committed to vinyl - by revelling in it, though the frail romanticism of "The Ballad of Lucy Jordan" (with a new, happy ending appended) and the primeval growl of "Broken English" came through loud and clear.

They finally shut up altogether

for a rendition of "She Moved

Through the Fair", a haunting

Irish folk melody which Faithfull sang unaccompanied. As a swan-

song, it was nothing short of

mesmerizing.

MARILYN KINGWILL



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Ghoulish: Marianne Faithfull

HEALTH

Has mad cow disease acquired a tragic human face?

Dr Helen Grant is a neuro-pathologist who has been interested in the spongiform encephalopathies for more than 30 years. Despite, or perhaps because of, her specialized knowledge, she continued to enjoy roast beef — medium rather than rare — until last autumn, but now she has advised her family to stop eating it. Her decision has not been made because she fears that a slow virus — the organism, as yet unidentified, which causes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and the other spongiform encephalopathies — might be lurking in the small peripheral nerves running through her Sunday joints. In her opinion it is unlikely that even if the slow virus was present there would be enough to matter.

The Grant family has abandoned beef because Dr Grant feels that one of the measures designed to stop the spread of BSE — commonly known as "mad cow" disease — may be encouraging it. In Dr Grant's opinion, the heads of all slaughtered cattle should be incinerated; regulations demand only that the brains should be removed, so that there is no chance that they might be used to make sausages or meat pies. But before the brain can be scooped out, leaving the rest of the meat on the head for human consumption, the skull has to be split open with a bandsaw. And, just as a logman scatters sawdust, so can the butcher, unless he is very careful, spray particles of blood, bone and possibly infected brain on the carcass.

There is little doubt that BSE is closely allied to, if not identical to, scrapie in sheep, and kuru, Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease and Gerstmann-Strausser-Scheinker's disease in humans; they all show some characteristics in the way they attack the brain, producing the same horrific symptoms that inevitably lead to paralysis, insanity and death.

In each of the diseases there is a long incubation period — hence the term slow virus — but the length of this

incubation period depends on whether the slow virus has been transmitted by mouth or injected; in humans, for instance, Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease has a much shorter incubation period when it follows the use of donated infected brain lining or a cornea for graft surgery, or when it is induced in undersized children by the use of human growth hormone collected from the post-mortem room, a practice now discontinued.

All the diseases show evidence of genetic susceptibility. Suffolks and Cheviots are more vulnerable to scrapie than other breeds of sheep; in humans, Gerstmann-Strausser-Scheinker's disease is common in certain families, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease is found 30 times more often in the eastern Mediterranean and north Africa than in Britain, but even in those countries where the incidence is high there are variations between different ethnic groups, and tribes within those groups. Dr Grant, while accepting that a genetic predisposition to the spongiform encephalopathies does exist, points out that there is a high incidence of the disease in those countries to which we have exported large quantities of sheep's brains and eyeballs with the optic nerve still attached; until this statistic is totally explained, it will be impossible to state categorically that scrapie is not passed on to humans.

The mechanism of the spread of scrapie in sheep is unclear, but it can be given experimentally to a wide variety of mammals, including the chimpanzee. The anti-beef lobby argues that the disease has spread, through food, from sheep to cows, deer and cats, so why not to humans, particularly given the evidence that the communities that eat sheep's brains have a high rate of Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease?

All doctors can say with certainty at this stage is that they do not know and that only studies of the incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease over the next 20 to 30 years may provide the

answer.

Judging from scrapie, an epidemic is unlikely, but people would be wise to avoid eating the brain and spinal tissue (which is used, for example, in meat pies) from all mammals, and any meat which might have been contaminated by it.

Keyhole means a kinder cut

Children have always been proud of surgical scars: a small, neat scar, which would delight a fashionable surgeon or his patient, provides no kudos on the playground, where what is needed is evidence of the drama survived. But times are changing. Recently, the first operation in Britain to remove a kidney — a nephrectomy — by minimal invasive surgery, or "key-

hole" surgery in popular jargon, was carried out in Portsmouth, and London is not far behind; just as soon as one team receives the blades for its endoscopic tissue disintegrator, a surgical instrument with the same role in the operating theatre as a blower has in the kitchen, it will be following Portsmouth's lead and doing nephrectomies by endoscopic surgery. A team at Guy's is already correcting several common congenital heart lesions by closed surgery, in which the instruments are introduced into the heart through the child's femoral vein rather than through an opened chest wall.

An endoscope is an illuminated telescope which allows a surgeon direct vision into the inside of the cavity in which he is working. There is no large incision, merely a puncture wound. The surgeon then passes instruments down

through the scope with which he can cut, tie, clip or extract.

The advent of lasers has made this surgery even more effective. The endoscope is often fitted with a minute camera, no bigger than a fingernail, which transmits a magnified colour picture on to a screen, which surgeons can watch as they operate with the instruments introduced down one or more tubes. The picture gives a view of the patient's organs which the old-style surgeon, with his wide incision, never achieved.

Minimally invasive surgery has advantages beyond the cosmetic gain of a small scar. A tiny puncture wound reduces blood loss and saves deeper tissues from damage caused by their separation or cutting. Having undergone this style of surgery, the patient is in hospital for only a day or two, rather than a week and more, and back at work within days instead of months.

Minimally invasive surgeons started on the urinary tract, but their activities have now spread to every part of the body. Ear, nose and throat specialists use it to operate on the sinuses and the larynx, gastrointestinal surgeons to remove gall bladders and gallstones, repair hernias, take out appendices or even portions of malignant bowel. Orthopaedic surgeons would now be lost without an arthroscopic, and heart surgeons do an increasing number of closed operations. Urinary surgeons will soon be doing nephrectomies (the Portsmouth operation) and gynaecologists hysterectomies. In some centres they have already drastically reduced the number of women who need a hysterectomy by using a laser to strip the uterine lining (endometrial ablation) rather than subjecting them to the major operation.

Minimal invasive surgery will remove much of the drama of surgery. Not unnaturally, traditionalists who have loved the atmosphere of the theatre will feel some regret, but the

patient who is playing golf the week after the removal of a gall bladder is unlikely to share them.

When Professor Kurt Semm introduced endoscopic surgery into Germany, his outraged surgical colleagues petitioned to have him struck off; this year he was elected president of the German Gastroenterological Association. Surgery without a scalpel has come to stay.

New weapon to fight epilepsy

Hippocrates in 400BC was the first physician to realize that epilepsy was a disorder of brain function. But not until the 19th century was an effective treatment — bromides — introduced. Over the past 100 years, other drugs have been used with greatly improved results, but there has been little advance in the past 20 years. It is claimed that a new drug, Sabril vigabatrin, will bring hope to some patients whose attacks are at present poorly controlled.

One in 200 people have epilepsy, which is not a distinct disease but a symptom. Epilepsy is easily controlled in half of the patients and controlled with difficulty in a further 25%, but the remainder respond badly to current treatment. It is hoped that Sabril will help this group.

Seizures should be prevented, not only to avoid accidental injury, but also because each time a patient has a fit further damage is done to the brain.

Whatever the drugs prescribed, the patient's life-style is also important. A low blood-sugar can make a person more liable to have a fit, so that regular balanced meals, with the correct proportion of fats, proteins and carbohydrates, are essential; exercise on an empty stomach also lowers blood sugar. Alcohol should be taken in strict moderation. Tiredness, anxiety and infections also increase the liability to fits.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

STAMMERING, Mike Rhodes says, is like having one foot nailed to the floor. Opinions, comments, criticisms — all wither before they become words, leaving the stammerer seething with frustration.

Stammering afflicts an estimated 500,000 people in Britain, most of whom are men — the ratio of men to women sufferers is 4:1. Sadly, most sufferers will never overcome their problem.

Mr Rhodes did. He overcame a lifelong stammer seven years ago, at the age of 45, and his life was changed.

Now Mr Rhodes, a Manchester-based advertising executive, has won seven cups for public speaking and is president of Stockport Speakers Club. At the office, he makes sales presentations to potential clients, a task which, for most of his life, was such a terrifying prospect that he would not consider it.

"It is impossible for most people to imagine just how frustrating stammering is," Mr Rhodes says. "You cannot strike up a conversation or put your point of view. You may have magical words inside, but they are locked up."

"A simple thing like the telephone is one of the stammerer's worst enemies because it is so intimidating to use. I remember having to read something to a client, who didn't know I stammered, over the phone. It took ages, and his embarrassment was almost tangible, but he couldn't ask me to stop."

The turnaround took place when Mr Rhodes went to Scotland to undergo a course devised by Andrew Bell. Mr Bell, once a chronic stammerer, claims to have taught himself a new speaking voice which ended his problem.

Once an architect, Mr Bell, aged 46, now works fulltime on his stammering cure at Kirkcaldy, in Fife. "From the age of four I had a stammer which got worse as I reached my teens," he says. "My inability to communicate often left me angry. A lot of money was spent on treatments, none of which worked. It seemed I had an affliction which nobody was able

resulting in inevitable tripping over words which develops into a stammer.

"You have to have had a stammer and then gained fluency before you have a total understanding of how to overcome stammering. Most speech therapists do not have this understanding of the problem," Mr Bell says.

He holds only four or five therapy courses a year, with about 16 people on each course. "We are cut off from the happenings of the world for a week," he says. "To call it intensive is putting it mildly. It is total immersion in new speech, and isolation is crucial to the success of the course."

He describes his cure as a "joyous journey to fluent speech, giving people confidence to talk fluently via a complex range of sound and speech exercises".

Although the course costs £400 per person, plus hotel expenses, Mr Bell takes no fee on the final day the individual is not speaking fluently.

CONVENTIONAL treatment has a high success rate, says Louise Wright, a speech therapist specializing in stammering, who is a member of the College of Speech Therapists. "Lots of adults may remember bad or failed treatment from 20 or more years ago because therapy was then in its infancy," she says. "Now we have an approach which is much more successful."

There is no single approach to curing a stammer, but approved techniques include modifying the rate and style of speech delivery.

Although most stammerers are helped by Mr Bell's treatment, few could claim to have been cured, Mr Rhodes says. Many join a support group. "You have to work to stay fluent by practising speaking exercises regularly — every day if you can manage it," Mr Rhodes says.

"I also go to a public speaker's club, and it gives me immense satisfaction to be able to speak as well, or better, than people who have been fluent all their lives."

Bernard Silk

Search for a freed speech

Will a sure-fire cure be found to end the misery of Britain's 500,000 stammerers?

to do anything about, and it would be with me for life."

By the time Mr Bell had reached his mid-20s, he had had enough. He was determined stammering was not going to control his life and began to investigate his problem. Because stammering is a fragmented way of speaking, he reasoned that if he broke his speech down to basics and gradually rebuilt it, using techniques he has now refined over many years, then fluency would follow.

Although it took prolonged and painstaking efforts, he says that by 1967 he was triumphant. After a two-year battle, he had beaten his stammer. "I discovered that if you are speaking fluently you cannot be stammering at the same time. It is a bit like learning to drive. After a while, you are automatically doing the things necessary to keep you going."

In 1969, having examined in detail how he had taught himself to become fluent, Mr Bell quit architecture to give his first course for stammerers. He believes stammering is caused by anxiety stemming from an emotional upset when the sufferer was young. This may inhibit self-expression, and the anxiety produces an unnecessary urge to rush speech,

Summer-time, and the living is sneezy

Hay fever takes the sunshine out of the lives of millions,
Heather Kirby
reports

If you do not cut the grass, the pollen will get you. But if you do, and the newly mown lawn makes you sneeze, that is because you are allergic to grass sap. You could take a holiday for the next six weeks, moving to the west coast because the prevailing westerly winds coming off the Atlantic will not be carrying the dreaded stuff. Or you could pray for rain — unless, that is, you are one of those people whose hay fever is brought on by a thunderstorm.

Unless we get a change in the weather, this could be a vintage year for hay fever sufferers: a mild, dry winter followed by an exceptionally sunny spring with plenty of wind to blow the pollen around. The first pollen count of 1990, taken on Tuesday, two weeks earlier than last year because of the warm April, was four, which is low. Last year the first day's figure, taken on June 1, was two, but it rose to a high of 200 by June 10 and remained high until June 17. This is the month when it usually reaches its peak, petering out by mid-July.

The most common symptoms, which for many sufferers have already started, are itchy, swollen eyes, a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, breathlessness and wheezing, lethargy and fatigue. And if you are suffering an allergic reaction to pollen, you may also find yourself sneezing at all sorts of other things, from strawberries to your dog.

The peak age for contracting hay fever is 20, although many children suffer. Some people become sensitive to more things as they grow older, and some older people find hay fever fades away, only to be replaced by migraine, according to Dr Jonathan Maberly, a consultant physician at the Airedale General Hospital, Keighley, West Yorkshire. "Hay fever is very variable," Dr Maberly, a specialist in chest complaints and allergies, says. "Some people get symptoms the moment they are exposed to pollen, and some can get them four to eight hours later. Some suffer for a short period and are all right in between, and other reactions can last for up to 24 hours."

"Last year, a lot of people who had never had hay fever started to get it because it was such a hot summer with very high pollen counts. They joined the 15 to 20 per cent of the population who suffer from some kind of allergy."

"It is a branch of medicine which is largely ignored in this country; we regard allergies as unimportant, with only a handful of specialists trying to treat them, whereas in America and on the Continent they take them very seriously."

Treatment for hay fever, depending on what type it is, ranges from antihistamine tablets and eye drops to nose or chest inhalers and steroids, taken either by mouth or injection. Past experience of drowsiness induced by drugs, which for many people often made the cure worse than the disease, should not deter sufferers from trying them again. Dr Robert Wilson, a special-



FIGHTING BACK

● There is no effective way of avoiding hay fever altogether, but reasonable precautions, such as not going for drives in open-topped cars, not keeping doors and windows open and avoiding picnics, can be taken. Air conditioning may also help.

● Running noses, itching, sneezing and allergic rashes can be alleviated by antihistamines.

● Antihistamines block the effects of substances to which the body is sensitive. They can be bought over the counter at chemists, or prescribed by doctors.

The important thing is to take them before symptoms set in, first thing in the morning before you are exposed to pollen.

Antihistamines do not help asthma, which can be treated with inhaled steroids such as Beclotide.

● Most doctors do not recommend anti-hay fever injections, which last four to six weeks, because of the side-effects.

● Some doctors believe that in the hay fever season you are already stocked up with histamine, so avoiding foods containing histamine can alleviate symptoms; others are unconvinced. However, it is generally agreed that if you have food allergies, such as grain, your hay fever symptoms should get better if you stop eating wheat or corn products during the season. If you are prone to food allergies it may be worth avoiding the following foods:

Red wine; strawberries; shellfish; mackerel; sauerkraut; pepperoni; sausages; cheese; salami; tuna; eggs; wheat; cereal; nuts; alcohol; yeast products; dyes and colourings; aspirin

widely believed to be responsible for the increase in the incidence of hay fever, which is a relatively new complaint. The first recorded case was in 1819.

Because the height of the hay fever season coincides with summer exams, it causes extra problems for schoolchildren. Dr Wilson says: "Hay fever does not have a direct mental effect, but because it causes tiredness, lethargy and impairs concentration the mental processes of hay fever sufferers are not as good as they should be."

"Exam boards tend to be sympathetic and give the benefit of the doubt in cases where the mark is marginal, but fortunately exams seem to be in early June now, before the worst of the hay fever season. In Shropshire we find admissions of children with asthma reach a peak in late June and July."

Ironically, the estimated 100,000 plane trees which were planted nearly 150 years ago in London to counteract the effects of pollution are a major cause of hay fever in the capital. Flowers and fruit-bearing trees which are pollinated by insects are less trouble but hazel, alder and chestnut trees can all contribute.

And in Derby at the moment, where they have not yet started to count grass pollen — because the further north you go the later the grass pollen starts to make itself felt — they are finding that oak spores are giving patients problems.

"We start monitoring in February," says Julie Corden, of the Midlands Asthma and Allergy Research Association. "We place a glass slide covered with a fine film of Vaseline on a spore trap, which stands on a tripod, and then count the pollen either at the end of each day or each week."

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New World: old story, no paradise

Isabel Raphael on the wild book judged the best novel in Spanish

With *The Dogs of Paradise* Abel Posse won the important Rumito Gallegos Prize for the best novel written in Spanish over the previous five years, which puts him into the same league as Gabriel García Márquez, Carlos Fuentes, and Mario Vargas Llosa. But comparisons made with *One Hundred Years of Solitude* are misleading. Certainly Posse writes powerful stuff; he attacks the reader with a verbal sledge-hammer, raining down torrents of images, metaphors, and deliberately starting anachronisms to give pace and impact to the thin

circumcised in recognition of his Jewish ancestry, and drawn from mere existence into life when he takes to the sea and the unknown. In the background is a far distant chorus of Aztecs and Incas, taking time from their mindless hecatombs to negotiate an eastward invasion in search of yet more victims for their thirsty gods.

In the second part, "Fire", Isabella and Columbus emerge from a brief safety with conventional marriage to a need for wider, individual satisfaction. This culminates in a metaphysical, mutually panoramic experience that confirms Columbus in his role as discoverer of Paradise.

THE DOGS OF PARADISE
By Abel Posse
Translated by Margaret Sayers Peden
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

their so-called civilization: prejudice, bigotry, xenophobia, diseases of body and mind, all that is needed to exploit the natives who are optimistically expecting a peaceful and benevolent take-over.

The last section, "Earth", brings Columbus, symbolically naked, to the Earthly Paradise of his dreams, inhabited by angels and Eve's own anacondas, and enclosing the Tree of Life itself. But with him have sailed Catholic dogma in the person of Fray Bui, and in Moreceai and Landsknecht Nietz anticipations of Marx and Swedenborg, to colonize in their

separate ways the new world at their feet. The intoxication of innocence fades from the encounters between the European predators and native "angels", and as Isabella far away is diminished by sorrow and bereavement, Ferdinand – incensed by Columbus's gift of angel feathers instead of gold – brings the visionary conquistador home in chains. In America, as natives of all kinds, humans, beasts, and birds, retreat before the brutal imposition of an alien culture, the pattern is set for

centuries of colonial dominance, silently opposed only by the souls of the departed in the form of the dogs of Paradise, powerless to halt the tide of history.

A grand scheme indeed, and in places brilliantly realized. Posse gives man no quarter for his inhumanity to man. Woman comes out even worse. The past, he tells us, is not pretty, and the future is stained and fore-shadowed by our follies and mistakes. His writing is highly coloured, particularly vivid in its evocation of aches and smells,

weariness and heat. No sensation is too extreme and no emotion too intense for his dramatic personae, who, from Torquemada and the Borgias to the troops of expectant Indian virgins converging on Columbus's men, are all stark mad. They inhabit a world where nothing is what it seems, and present, past, and future whirl in a maelstrom about them. Posse is obsessed with historical anachronism, contriving allusions and connections in most unlikely situations, and creating a bizarre backdrop for his cast of thou-

sands. But style and content are continuously provoking and frequently infuriating, as torrid and ludicrous scenes of sadism and sex tumble out one after another. Possibly these, and the relentless procession of scatological passages, sound less silly in the original Spanish. *The Dogs of Paradise* is an unashamed extravaganza, over the top and out of sight; you may hate it, but you will not forget the compressed fury and contempt that burst from every page, or the overwhelming sense of a Paradise lost.

This way madness lies, and lies

PAPERBACKS

Frances Hill

FAMILY PLANNING
By Tim Parks
Flamingo, £3.99

(Faber £4.99) is that she spends a considerable amount of time inside the mind of a madman. Her heroine, Emma, herself the product of an unhappy marriage, works during the hiatus between school

and university in a children's home, and meets Anthony Davis, known to fellow pupils at school as Orph, short for orphan. The section of the novel set in the home is brilliant. But the second half is much less successful. It is marred by two-dimensional characters and, more fundamentally, by its being narrated in part from Orph's point of view. The difficulty is that he does not have a point of view. The author has not given him one, because she cannot imagine it.

Her Living Image, Jane Rog-

ers's second novel (Faber, £4.99) and winner of the Somerset Maugham Award, is far more successful. Rogers's theme is again the intractability of psychological difficulties produced through inadequate mothering, including, in this case, single-minded, over-anxious mothering. She explores with considerable subtlety the pitfalls of conventional family life, and also of less orthodox ways of conducting one's existence and rearing one's young, including those encouraged by feminism.

Fat Parker, in *The Man Who*

Wasn't There (Penguin, £4.50) also goes in for some fancy construction work. Her hero is a 12-year-old boy living in the North just after the Second World War, more or less bringing himself up, since his well-meaning but flighty mother is so busy with a boyfriend. In compensation for his general loneliness, and more particularly for his lack of a father, he lives a fantasy life as a wartime freedom fighter as real to him as school and home. The fantasies are narrated as a parallel story, in italics. Gradually reality and fantasy interweave and come to include the supernatural. Because the boy's real life is far more interesting than his fantasies, each transition from the first to the second tends to be a book-closer.

Private eye, SS, and dirty deeds among the Nazis

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

THE PALE KILLER

By Philip Kerr
Viking, £13.99

(Collins, £12.95) recalls the golden age of British investigative reporting: lecherous, hard-living, crusading. Choice of subject – prison riots – shows alarming prescience, and is treated to full-scale enquiry: cover-ups all down the line, and howls of rage across the great class divide. Characters conform to type – alternately conscientious and cynical journos, ditto politicians, liberal governor, horrid screws, dog-eat-dog inmates – but no less than in life. Kippax displays a firm grasp of institutions and their traps, exposes expediency and self-interest, querulous as government, and through his strongish story reveals a Britain regressing to the dark days of Dickens. *Beta double plus*.

With US rights sold for \$125,000, and an author who has studied creative writing under Allen Ginsburg [sic] and William Burroughs, one wanted more from Tony Cape's *The Cambridge Theorem* (Hamish Hamilton, £13.99) than a padded tale, on which creative editing would not have gone amiss. A Cambridge post-grad hanging seems like routine suicide until investigation shows possible murder, thanks to that rusty can of worms, the identity of the Fifth Man: cue for donnish prevarication and Kim's Moscow cameo. With only two done and dusted, understanding is a problem, compounded by lack of diversion. A copper with a taste for country music and cowboy boots feels like an American concession, more believable to

them perhaps, to go by the size of that cheque. *Beta* (*plus*).

• **The Horse Latitudes**, by Robert Ferrigno (Hamish Hamilton, £13.99) reads like a calling card to Hollywood. Characters of an adult cartoon variety are strictly from the fruit-and-ants department of southern California: crazed scientist, dumb-bell twins with overpumped bodies, sleazy pimps, lesbian wrestler, reclusive veteran turned computer wizard – all satisfactorily weird, and linked to a nasty death by flaying of an unknown male in a beach-house belonging to a female psychiatrist, since vanished. Suspect in chief is her ex-husband, an ex-drug dealer, whose biggest problem in a cynical world is still loving her *cherchez la femme*. Author goes AWOL for the story's emotional heart of darkness, and in the end shows more bark than bite. Wait for the movie. *Beta*.

• Gambling systems have long exercised the human mind, though most avoid roulette, whose odds are at best absurd. Hence its appeal to Marcel Duchamp, who perfected a system whereby one neither wins nor loses. Consistent winning became in fact feasible with the microchip, plus application of the Laplace theory of predictability, as proved by The Newmann Conspiracy (Longman, £12.95) by Thomas A. Bass, an engrossing true story whose presiding spirit is Blaise Pascal, to whom have been attributed the inception of the computer, the invention of roulette, and the basic laws of probability. Surprisingly, given its scientific study, the story's appeal lies in its romantic obsessions, and those in particular of the American Sixties counter-culture. Post-hippie computer freaks develop a system to beat the System, and take on Las Vegas to heroic and thrilling effect. *Beta*

Ich bin ein film camera in Berlin

Andrew Sinclair

DESTINY EXPRESS
By Howard A. Rodman
André Deutsch, £11.95

THE LAST WORLD

By Christoph Ransmayr
Chatto & Windus, £12.95

BILLY BAYSWATER

By Nigel Watts
Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95

DUSK

And Other Stories

By James Salter
Cape, £11.95

and whereabouts. Cotta feels himself to be a reptile or an insect in his quest through dream and chaos. Ovid's imagination has transformed his barren world into the creatures of his mind, and these visions of the decadent yet persecuted artist of that time. Howard Rodman has a director's eye for every detail on the set of Berlin in 1933; but he disfigures significant scraps of evidence with lists of things such as screen credits and names. These are the faults of the word-processor, the inability to omit. *Destiny Express* is authentic in excess as well as eclectic in its genres. Lang seems to be often in one of his own scenes in Berlin, even viewing a scene of violence outside his window, a tableau policier.

Unfortunately, Lang is obsessed by his screenwriter and wife, Thea von Harbou, who is a supporter of the Nazis. This moral thriller questions the choices of the decadent yet persecuted artist of that time. Howard Rodman has a director's eye for every detail on the set of Berlin in 1933; but he disfigures significant scraps of evidence with lists of things such as screen credits and names. These are the faults of the word-processor, the inability to omit. *Destiny Express* is authentic in excess as well as eclectic in its genres. Lang seems to be often in one of his own scenes in Berlin, even viewing a scene of violence outside his window, a tableau policier.

Leaving from Berlin station, Bertolt Brecht is given some studied words, written as if he said them to Lang: "Are we not, all of us, unchained luggage in the railway stations of history?" Only the organized brilliance and ascribed epigrams of *Destiny Express* prevent readers from believing that they also were on that last train from Berlin.

The Roman Cotta's journey to the Black Sea to find the banished Ovid in *The Last World* is set in no time or place. The Balkan towns of Tomi and Trachila might as well be two of Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, lost in limbo between ancient and modern. Lilliputian dwarfs show films of Greek legends on slaughterhouse walls, with demi-gods in the audience. Jason and the Argonauts appear on a ship powered by an auxiliary engine. Ovid has written his *Metamorphoses* and has vanished or been transmuted, as his human characters were, into beasts or myths. His exile began because of an unfortunate speech before a bouquet of microphones in front of the Emperor Augustus; his disappearance is signalled by old newspaper photographs tacked on the town notice-board.

After Cotta has sailed out on the Trivia to check that Ovid is really dead, he cannot prove it, even with the help of the philosopher Pythagoras, who has been Ovid's servant. The land and the people all seem to derive from the *Metamorphoses*, and provide clues to the 'lost poet's meaning

failure. Cocteau once said. He is quoted by one of James Salter's minor writers in *Dusk* and *Other Stories*.

Salter has an unnerving eye for the pretension that disfigures lack of success. His artists are advertisements for themselves, known by the style of their lives rather than their unknown works.

His authors know about other authors, and their sad bones are made of the literature that they cannot write. They make treacherous lovers, unable to commit. The lethal irony of these tales of expatriate scribblers is admirable in clarity. But there is no passion or compassion in these understatements of the heart.

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Ich bin ein film camera in Berlin

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Cape, £11.95

and whereabouts. Cotta feels himself to be a reptile or an insect in his quest through dream and chaos. Ovid's imagination has transformed his barren world into the creatures of his mind, and these visions of the decadent yet persecuted artist of that time. Howard Rodman has a director's eye for every detail on the set of Berlin in 1933; but he disfigures significant scraps of evidence with lists of things such as screen credits and names. These are the faults of the word-processor, the inability to omit. *Destiny Express* is authentic in excess as well as eclectic in its genres. Lang seems to be often in one of his own scenes in Berlin, even viewing a scene of violence outside his window, a tableau policier.

Unfortunately, Lang is obsessed by his screenwriter and wife, Thea von Harbou, who is a supporter of the Nazis. This moral thriller questions the choices of the decadent yet persecuted artist of that time. Howard Rodman has a director's eye for every detail on the set of Berlin in 1933; but he disfigures significant scraps of evidence with lists of things such as screen credits and names. These are the faults of the word-processor, the inability to omit. *Destiny Express* is authentic in excess as well as eclectic in its genres. Lang seems to be often in one of his own scenes in Berlin, even viewing a scene of violence outside his window, a tableau policier.

Leaving from Berlin station, Bertolt Brecht is given some studied words, written as if he said them to Lang: "Are we not, all of us, unchained luggage in the railway stations of history?" Only the organized brilliance and ascribed epigrams of *Destiny Express* prevent readers from believing that they also were on that last train from Berlin.

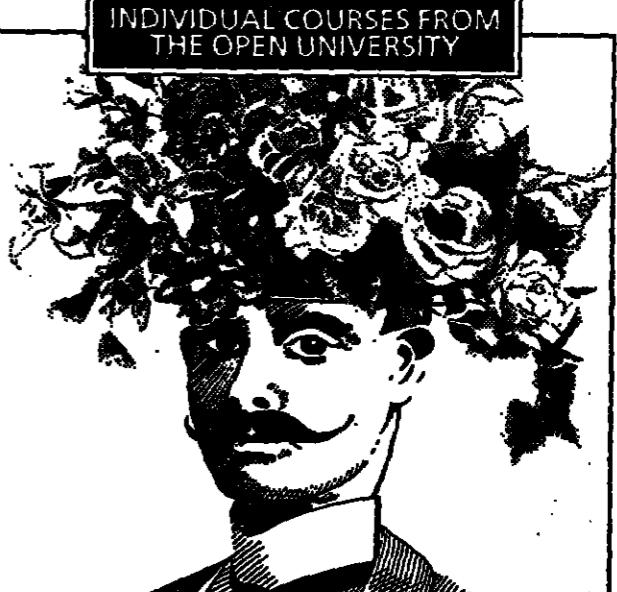
The Roman Cotta's journey to the Black Sea to find the banished Ovid in *The Last World* is set in no time or place. The Balkan towns of Tomi and Trachila might as well be two of Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, lost in limbo between ancient and modern. Lilliputian dwarfs show films of Greek legends on slaughterhouse walls, with demi-gods in the audience. Jason and the Argonauts appear on a ship powered by an auxiliary engine. Ovid has written his *Metamorphoses* and has vanished. He lives a fantasy life as a wartime freedom fighter as real to him as school and home. The fantasies are narrated as a parallel story, in italics. Gradually reality and fantasy interweave and come to include the supernatural. Because the boy's real life is far more interesting than his fantasies, each transition from the first to the second tends to be a book-closer.

After Cotta has sailed out on the Trivia to check that Ovid is really dead, he cannot prove it, even with the help of the philosopher Pythagoras, who has been Ovid's servant. The land and the people all seem to derive from the *Metamorphoses*, and provide clues to the 'lost poet's meaning failure. Cocteau once said. He is quoted by one of James Salter's minor writers in *Dusk* and *Other Stories*.

Salter has an unnerving eye for the pretension that disfigures lack of success. His artists are advertisements for themselves, known by the style of their lives rather than their unknown works.

His authors know about other authors, and their sad bones are made of the literature that they cannot write. They make treacherous lovers, unable to commit. The lethal irony of these tales of expatriate scribblers is admirable in clarity. But there is no passion or compassion in these understatements of the heart.

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PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance & Books

FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide.

OPERA

Barry Millington

LONDON

IL TROVATORE (Verdi): Static staging by Piero Fagioli, partly redeemed by strong cast, including Vanessas, Steblanski, Leiferer and Rendova. Edward Downes conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066), Sat, Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50-£22.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart): Lively revival by Rebecca Metella of original production by Jonathan Miller. Gregory Yurish and Lesley Garrett are the Court's resourceful valet and his fiancée. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight, Mon, Wed, £3-£23.

CLARISSA: Robin Holloway's long-awaited opera to his own libretto based on Richardson's novel. Oliver Knussen conducts; David Pountney directs. ENO (as above), tomorrow, Tues, 7.30pm, £3-£18.

COMBATTIMENTO DI TANCREDI E CLOTHINA: Richard Jones's production of Monteverdi's dramatic cantata is part of the day-long series of events on South Bank to raise money for Crisis. Stephen Oliver's Tafelmusik will give a new meaning to the term "cultural opera" by being performed at the Festival Hall restaurant. South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800), Sun, midday-midnight, £10 upwards (some events free).

MERRY WIDOW/LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Opera 80 and their nationwide tour with a short run in the capital. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-891 8195). *The Merry Widow*, Wed (Lucia), 7.30pm, £4-£16.

OUTSIDE LONDON

COSI FAN TUTTE (Mozart): Strongly cast new production by Jürgen Gosch, with Jane Eaglen and Thomas Dallal (tonight); *Madam Butterfly* (Puccini): Janice Cairns and Arthur Davies take the leads in Nuremberg's attractive production (Wed). Scottish Opera, Theatres Royal, Glasgow, Hope Street (041 331 1254), 7.15pm, £5-£25.50.

LA SERVA PADRONA (Pergolesi): Attractive triple bill (two short comic operas also by Dibdin) from Opera Restor'd, all in period style. Village Hall, Hampstead Noris (0835 498191), tonight, 7.30pm, £7.50.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Rossini): Peter Saville plays the barber whose Spanish practices enable his master (Neil Archer) to win the object of his fancy (Kate McCarney). Welsh National Opera, New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), tomorrow, 7.15pm, £7.50-£20.

L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/GIANNI SCHICCHI: David Lloyd-Jones conducts the Ravel/Puccini double bill, with Andrew Shore outstanding in the latter (tomorrow); *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Gluck): Sally Burgess and Jane Leslie Mackenzie take the title roles, but the strongest recommendation is for Clive Timms's conducting (Sat). Opera North, New Theatre Royal, Hull (0482 226655), 7.15pm, £4-£21.

TORNRAK: John Metcalfe's new opera sets the spiritual animal culture of the Inuit against the rigid social conventions of Victorian Britain. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), Sat, 7.15pm, £7.50-£20.

THE MAGIC FLUTE: Glyndebourne's appetite for innovation will surely be tested by the first Mozart production in this country from America's *enfant terrible*, Peter Sellars.

Moving borders

DANIEL FAIOR



British: Station House Opera perform "Cuckoo" (Saturday)

For its second appearance, Edge 90, "Britain's international platform of innovative visual arts", moves from London to Newcastle — and the wonderful spaces the town has to offer this type of work. Edge 90 promotes the kind of work which has numerous floating phrases attached to it, irregularly referred to as "performance art", "installation", "time-based art", or "live art". So what do these differing terms represent? Taken quite literally they mean what they say and draw on any artform, deploying it as necessary. The emotions they play on are numerous. What they more generally have in common is clearly expressed in the subtitle to the festival — "art and life in the Nineties". The artists involved are the philosophers of the visual arts world: the social workers, the questioners, the contemplators, the politicians, the dissenters. They challenge us to reassess our notion of art and its relation to our lives. Richard Wilson, Edge 90's official British artist, surrealizes a room by placing a balcony bursting up through the floor and projecting out of the window. Martin Spanjaard (Dutch) presents the first viewing of "Adelbrecht" — a large white robotic ball with changing moods and personality. The festival includes installations, exhibitions and nightly performances by 25 artists from across the world. There is also a two-day conference and a videotape. Various artists will show work at a later date in Glasgow, London and Rotterdam. For full details, phone 091 232 0862. *Ghislaine Boddington*

Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), Mon, Wed, 5.25pm, £30-£75.

CAV AND PAC: (Mascagni/ Leoncavallo): The opera world's most famous marriage of convenience is celebrated by Kentish Opera. Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley (081 460 6877), Tues, Wed, 2.30pm, £7-£11.50.

PAT GRANEY: American West Coast dancer with her company, reputedly full of excitement and humour. The Duke, Poole Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), Fri, Sat, 8pm, £8.

JEWELS: Surrey Hills in a programme of Egyptian dances and music. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 453351), Sat, 7.30pm, £4.50-£8.

CURRULAO: Ashley Page's lively Latin American company, with works by Cunningham, Trisha Brown and Gary Lambert. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 294888), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £4-£9.50.

EVENING SONGS: Jiri Kylian's work for Prague Chamber Ballet to Dvorak's music, with three works by director Pavel Smok; music by Janácek and Schoenberg. Gardner Centre, Brighton (0273-685867), tonight, 7.45pm, £3.50-£8.

PERFORMANCE ART: Ghislaine Boddington

ZUNI ICOASHEDRON: Deep Structure of Chinese Culture. A promised challenging and topical performance from this Hong Kong company.

Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1 (071-387 9829), tonight until Sat, 8pm, £5-£8.

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

5511, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £5.

THE DREAM: Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, in Ashton's popular production, with *Paramour and Flowers of the Forest*. Marlowe, Canterbury (0227 767246), tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £7-£18.

PAT GRANEY: American West Coast dancer with her company, reputedly full of excitement and humour. The Duke, Poole Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), Fri, Sat, 8pm, £8.

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DANCE

John Percival

SONG OF THE EARTH: Revival by the Royal Ballet of Kenneth MacMillan's *Mahler* ballet, with new young casts — Durante, Cassidy and Sansom (tonight, Mon); Bussell, Coxe and Travitt (tomorrow). Also Ashton's *A Month in the Country*, with Guillen and Dowell. John Lanchberry conducts.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240-1066), 7.30pm, £1-£22.

GRANDEUR: *La Bohème* with three works by director Pavel Smok; music by Janácek and Schoenberg. Gardner Centre, Brighton (0273-685867), tonight, 7.45pm, £3.50-£8.

PRETTY UGLY: Premiere by Scottish Ballet of work by Amanda Miller from the Frankfurt Ballet, with new works also by Michel Raith and Massimo Moriconi.

The Tramway, Glasgow (041 227

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

FORCED ENTERTAINMENT: Some Confusions In *The Law About Love*. With a cynical but clever look at the illusions of life, this Sheffield-based cooperative re-attack life in the cities in their original if not slightly cloying style. The Green Room, 54-56 Whitworth Street, West Manchester (061 236 1677), tonight, Fri, 8pm, £4.20 (£1.50).

JACOB MARLEY AND STEPHEN TAYLOR-WOODROW: *The Second Sizing*. A disappointingly tacky evening, pretentious, sexist and clearly over-hyped.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), tonight until Sat, 8pm, £6 (£5), please £1 day membership.

MAYFEST AT THE THIRD EYE CENTRE: An excellent week for the near to Glasgow. Victoria Worley with *Me Make A Statue* (tonight, Fri 7.30pm). Double bill from Americans Nancy Reilly and John O'Keefe (Fri, Sat, 9.30pm). Fred McIrvine "on biology" (Sun, 9.30pm), and the V-Girls (V-Girls) with their satirical breakdowns of works of art and literature (Wed, Thurs, 9.30pm).

Third Eye Centre, 346-354 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 332 0522). Tickets £5-£12.

GRAEME MILLER: *A Girl Skipping*. A kaleidoscope of physical theatre and images woven into an intricate game where the world of adult and child leap into each other. Towngate Theatre, Basildon (0268 532 632), Sat, 7.30pm, £4 (£2.50).

JOHN O'KEEFE: *Shimmer*. As part of the ICA's season of new performers from the US, this writer/performer uses his secret childhood language "shimmer" as a means of contemporary storytelling.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), Mon until Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 9.30pm, £6 (£5) and £1 day membership.

INSTALLATIONS: A selection of "exhibitions" by perceptive visual artists using installation as a means of encouraging new reactions and awareness from their viewers. Fran Cottell (Greenwich), Andrew Sabine (Chesterfield), Kerry Trengove (Showroom), Bruce McLean (Amoflin), Christian Boltanski (Whitechapel), Greenwich Citizens Gallery, 151 Powys Street, London SE1 (081-316 2752), until May 24. Chisenhale Gallery, 64-68 Chisenhale Road, London E3 (081-981 4518), until May 27. The Showroom, 44 Bonner Road, London E2 (081-980 6636), until June 3. Arnolfini Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 29191), until May 28. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 0107), until June 3.

ERIC MOTTRAM: Prolific, highly influential poet and editor who has successfully helped to prize open the cloven English 20th-century poetic tradition and place contemporary British writing at the cutting edge of world developments as its recent *Peace Projects* and *500 Novels* amply prove.

Toronto Meeting House, 59 Tomano Avenue, London NW5 (071-257 7211), Sun, 7.30pm, free.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS: Bohumil Hrabal and Jim Kollar:

Author of *Closely Observed Tales* and the brilliant text collage artist currently exhibiting in the ICA Galleries, talk to Julian Barnes (novelist) and Pavel Buchler (artist and curator) in the East European section of the ICA (1st Floor, Royal Exchange, 10 St Mary Axe, London EC3) and Lisa Teitel De Tora: Two authors, both working with audio tape, discuss their mutual talk with Edward Blishen, who describes Heath as "simply one of the best" and "astonishingly good novelists of our time" (Tues). Eric Hobbsawin: Discusses his latest work under the title *Echoes of Mrs Morphew and Nationalism Since 1920* with Neal Ascherson (Wed).

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), Mon until Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 9.30pm, £6 (£5) and £1 day membership.

MAN: *Man of the Moment* (Nees-Yee Evans 7-14 May, Matinee 3.30, £6-£10.50 £3-£7.50).

SHANE: *Shane* (Nees-Yee Evans 7-14 May, Matinee 3.30, £6-£10.50 £3-£7.50).

ROBERT: *Robert* (Nees-Yee Evans 7-14 May, Matinee 3.30, £6-£10.50 £3-£7.50).

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ROBERT: *Robert* (Nees-Yee Evans 7-

TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR
AND MARIT HARGIE
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EVENING

- 6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer 8.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes. To contribute ring 061 814 0424
9.20 Gloria Live. Gloria Hunniford and her guests discuss matters of topical interest
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r)
10.25 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parfin, begins with Playdays (r) 10.50 Game (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Looking forward to next week's series One World, John Craven investigates the destruction of the rainforests
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Follow-up to viewers' comments, with Cannon Hobbes and Jane Irving.
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. The places that inspired Thomas Hardy are the subject of Sir Michael Hordern's continuing search 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Matchpoint. Angela Rippon hosts another round of the open air
2.15 Film: The Spanish Main (1945). A colourful, swashbuckling tale of piracy, starring Maureen O'Hara, Paul Henreid and Walter Szalay. Directed by Frank Borzage.
3.50 Rupert. 3.55 Mervyn Tales. Bryan Murray with Beryl Lomas's Sammy at

the Supermarket (r) 4.00 The New Yogi Bear Show 4.10 The All New Popes Show 4.30 Tricky Business. Magicians in performance as they bring their custom to the magic shop

4.45 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter includes a preview of the Gateshead Garden Festival. (Ceefax)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: 5.35 Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. Weather

6.30 Regional News Magazines

6.50 EastEnders. (Ceefax)

7.20 FA Cup Final Replay. Manchester United and Crystal Palace return to Wembley Stadium to continue their grueling, inconclusive encounter of last Saturday. NB: If extra time is required the programme times following are approximate

9.00 News with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather

10.00 Clive James — Postcard from Miami.

● The portly Australian's overseas safaris have tended to settle into a predictable formula but he plays on words as blunt as ever and there is still enjoyment to be had from new variations on the old gag. The running joke this time, given that he is in Miami, is where's the vice? The place looks too clean and respectable to be hiding the drug barons and other villains encountered in television fiction. So it is to the fiction that James goes on, glorifying the set of Miami Vice and wondering how he can turn himself into Don Johnson. Johnson is on hand to tell him, the cue for James to fire a Forna, take gun

practice and make a prat of himself on water side. Unable to raise celebrities, he calls on Gloria Estefan, who takes no notice of his obsequious flattery and gives what on a Clive James show is the nearest thing to a straight interview. (Ceefax)



Clive James: On safari in Florida. (8.30pm)

10.50 Quiz Time. Peter Sissons chairs the debate at the Oxford Union with panellists Paul Foot, Daily Mirror columnist; Dr Sheila Lawlor, Deputy Director of Studies, Centre for Policy Studies; Jack Straw MP; and the Home Secretary David Waddington

11.50 Cagney and Lacey. Sick American police series starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly. A straightforward investigation at a railway yard becomes a nightmare when the two cops are confronted by a psychopathic gunman (r). Northern Ireland: Football — Northern Ireland v Uruguay

12.40am Weather

- BBC 2
- 6.45 Open University: Social Sciences — Sociology, Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two begins with a programme on protecting the environment and includes at 10.00 The history of Lincoln Cathedral 10.40 Designers who create fashions for children and teenagers 11.00 The life of a farm boy a century ago 12.03 Working in travel and tourism and, at 1.40, Music Time

2.00 News and weather followed by Watch (t) 2.15 History Man. In Victorian England, the town of Braintree in Essex had its own special solution to the problems of drunks on the streets (r)
2.20 The Kingdom of Fun. The story of Tyneside's Metro Centre (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Including Prime Minister's Question Time 3.50 News, regional news and weather

4.00 River Journeys Gemma Greer takes a vintage paddle-boat and steams up the Rio Sao Francisco in Brazil (r). (Ceefax) 5.00 Snap (r). (Ceefax)

5.10 Horizon: Legacy of a Volcano. (r). (Ceefax)

6.00 Film: Stagecoach (1939, b/w). One of the great American films — a classic John Ford western, starring John Wayne. On the run from the law, he joins a stagecoach carrying a colourful assortment of passengers, including Claire Trevor and Thomas Mitchell, through treacherous Indian country. (Ceefax)

7.35 Business Matters: Picking Up the Pieces. Fiona Foster reports on how owners of small businesses which

have failed are able to recover and begin to reconstruct their shattered lives. Wales: Gardening Together 8.00 Yes, Minister. Brilliant political comedy by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn (r). (Ceefax)

8.30 On the Line. Sue Mott and Ray Stubbs with a new series of investigations into the world of sport. Tonight's topics include contracts between television and football.

9.00 KYTV. The environment is the focus of fun for this week's edition of the out-and-out comedy series poking fun at satellite television



Amazonian Indians under threat (9.30pm)

9.30 Under the Sun. ● The anthropological series returns with the trilogy of films about Brazil, starting with tonight's study of the Mehukini Indians of Amazonia. If last year's *Under the Sun* sometimes strayed from the definition of anthropology as commonly understood, here we are back in the

mainstream. The film falls into two parts. The first explores a peaceful culture which not only enjoys social cohesion within the Mehukini but governs its relations with the other tribes living along the banks of the River Xingu. Among their elaborate rituals, of which the most spectacular is a mock battle in full war paint, the only concession to the 20th century is the bicycle. But the second part of the film shows the traditional culture of the Mehukini under threat, from the white men who may take their land and, more insidiously, the game of football which has caught on rapidly since the 1970s and is threatening to replace the old tribal customs. (Ceefax) 10.10.

● A new series of short pieces by first-time directors clatters from the previous two in this outdoor filming has been replaced by studio-shot video and the makers have all been recruited from the backroom staff of the BBC. If previous form is anything to go by, we may soon be recognizing their names on the credits of shows such as Film 90, Nature and Brookside. Tonight's offering, *Look to the Moon*, was made by a film editor from Scotland, Bill Kirkwood, and is a dance-drama set in a Glasgow pub at closing time. Left in an otherwise deserted bar, a drunk finds his mind veering between reality and fantasy and feeding an obsession with the moon. Ten minutes is not much time to play with, but Kirkwood fits it inventively

10.30 Newsworld 11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather 12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am Health and Disease — Life before birth. Ends at 12.35

- BBC 3
- FM Stereo and MW 5.00am John Brambles 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.30 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Newsbeat 3.30 The Weather Channel 4.00 News 5.00 News 6.00 Meteo 7.00 Top of the Pops with BBC1's 13.30 Philipe Schrotter 8.30 John Peel 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 2.00 Bob Harris

- RADIO 2
- FM Stereo and MW 4.00 Simon Mayo 5.00am John Brambles 6.30 David Attenborough 7.30 David Jenkins 9.30 Judith Chalmers 11.00 Peter Cadogan 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.55 Gloria Hunniford 4.05 Earth Kit 5.15 John Dunn 7.00 The Big Interview 7.30 Weather 8.00 Peter Jones 9.00 Weather 9.30 Weather 10.00 Whitstable after she favourite artistes 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.30 The Spinners and Friends 1.00 Radio 2 News 1.30 Weather 1.45-7.00pm Sport and Classified Results

- WORLD SERVICE**
- All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST
- 5.00am World News 5.05 24 Hours. News Summary 5.30 Europe 5.45 Africa 5.55 Asia 6.00 Americas 5.30 Global in the Dusky 6.40 Evening World 7.00 World News 7.05 24 Hours. News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Media Watch 7.45 Network 12.00 News 12.30 Newsbeat 9.00 World News 9.00 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.20 Financial News 9.45 Today 10.30 The Sunday Times 10.45 BBC News 10.55 News 11.30 News About Britain 11.15 The Stratford Mystery 12.30 News 12.55 The Stratford Mystery 13.00 News 13.30 The Stratford Mystery 13.55 The Stratford Mystery 14.00 News 14.30 News 14.45 News 15.00 News 15.30 News 15.45 News 16.00 News 16.30 News 17.00 News 17.30 News 18.00 News 18.30 News 19.00 News 19.30 News 20.00 News 20.30 News 21.00 News 21.30 News 22.00 News 22.30 News 23.00 News 23.30 News 24.00 News 24.30 News 25.00 News 25.30 News 26.00 News 26.30 News 27.00 News 27.30 News 28.00 News 28.30 News 29.00 News 29.30 News 30.00 News 30.30 News 31.00 News 31.30 News 32.00 News 32.30 News 33.00 News 33.30 News 34.00 News 34.30 News 35.00 News 35.30 News 36.00 News 36.30 News 37.00 News 37.30 News 38.00 News 38.30 News 39.00 News 39.30 News 40.00 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Oil sludge clean-up under fire

By Jamie Detmer

HUNDREDS of tons of oil, leaked from the hold of supertanker Rose Bay, washed ashore on the south Devon coast yesterday, polluting over 15 miles of the county's most spectacular and popular tourist beaches.

Amid growing criticism of the clean-up operation, emergency workers were still struggling last night to prevent the sinking oil sludge from reaching rare salt marshes up the estuaries of the rivers Avon and Erme. The marshes are rich in marine and bird life.

All beaches between the holiday resorts of Salcombe to Plymouth have been affected, including Bigbury Bay and the picturesque Ayre Cove. The stretch of Stoke Beach around Mothecombe, at the mouth of the Erme, is one of the worst affected. There were fears last night that winds could sweep more of the sludge to so far unaffected beaches to the east and west.

The disaster began last Saturday when the 250,000-tonne Rose Bay collided with a trawler, spilling about 1,000 tons of oil into the sea. Intensive spraying with detergent appears to have broken up most of the slick but nearly 200 tons are believed to have been washed ashore.

Greenpeace continued yesterday its criticism of the clean-up operation, which is being jointly undertaken by South Hams District Council and the Marine Pollution Unit of Devon County Council. Some local inhabitants joined

Parliament, page 8



Workers at Bigbury cleaning up the oil slick, which has devastated the Devon coast

Minister condemns strip mill closure

Continued from page 1
of his assertion to a Tory conference a year ago that "Ravenscraig has been given a new lease of life" and of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement in an interview that she had a "soft spot" for the Ravenscraig workforce.

In his statement Mr Rifkind said: "British Steel announced this morning their intention to close the hot strip mill at their Ravenscraig steel works during the first half of 1991. While this, of course, is a matter for the commercial judgement of the company, I must make it clear that I deplored this decision and its implications for the workforce. I am also very disturbed by the potential implications of closing the hot strip mill for the future of the Ravenscraig as a whole."

"The Scottish Office, naturally, regrets any decision that has significant adverse employment implications. As we would with any other major employer in Scotland we shall seek to persuade British Steel to reconsider their proposal in the interests of the company and its workforce."

"As yet, British Steel have not provided any details as to why they believe that the closure of the hot strip mill is necessary. I very much hope that they will do so, as those

affected are entitled to the fullest possible information.

The hot strip mill has been a valuable asset for the company over the last three years and we are not aware why it ceased to be so. I also very much hope that British Steel will take all their workforce at Ravenscraig into their confidence as to their future employment prospects.

"The decision announced by British Steel is not due to come into effect until the first half of next year. There is still, therefore, opportunity for the company to reconsider their decision and see the hot strip mill as an asset rather than as a liability.

"The Scottish Office, naturally, regrets any decision that has significant adverse employment implications. As we would with any other major employer in Scotland we shall seek to persuade British Steel to reconsider their proposal in the interests of the company and its workforce."

The Scottish Conservative Party immediately pledged to join all other parties to pursue British Steel to change its mind. Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish party chairman, said: "The workers of Ravenscraig deserve to be supported. This issue demands unity of purpose between all of Scotland's political parties."

Yesterday's announcement offered little hope for the future of the 3,200-strong Ravenscraig workforce. Sir Peter said the closure was necessary because demand had fallen and growing imports had brought pressure on the company to reduce costs. British Steel was responsible to its shareholders and, having been privatized, had to prove that it would continue to be as efficient as possible.

"Our role in the UK is to present low priced or competitively priced, high quality steel for our manufacturing base," he said.

Mr Tommy Brennan, shop stewards' convenor at the plant, said the decision would lead to the eventual death of Ravenscraig. "It is an outrage. It is the worst announcement we have ever had."

Local community leaders said an eventual closure of Ravenscraig could lead to up to 15,000 people losing their jobs in support industries.

Mr Iain Lawson, the Scottish National Party's steel spokesman, said: "This is the grossest possible betrayal of one of the finest workforces anywhere in Europe. British Steel are willing to waste £83 million of shareholders' money installing concast facilities at Llanwern which already exist at Ravenscraig. No one can now be in any doubt, there is no British future for Scottish steel. An independent Scottish steel industry is the only solution. We want a price from British Steel for their Scottish operations, and we want it now. They must be forced to sell immediately, not in four years' time when it is too late."

Before meeting Sir Robert to urge new investment instead of a cutback, Mr Dewar said: "I believe it is a fundamentally wrong decision based on a narrow view of likely future demand. The closure is not in the interests of the industry or the country. We all know that the European market is going to expand in the next four or five years with the big build-up of demand in the car industry with Japanese firms coming into Britain and with North Sea oil demand." The plant was important to rail freight in Scotland, the Hunterston ore terminal in Ayrshire and the electricity industry.

Mr Campbell Christie, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said the broadest campaign ever seen in Scotland must ensure that the closure of Ravenscraig in the mid-1990s did not occur.

Van Gogh painting fetches record £49.7 m

From Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent
New York

THE \$100million painting is now "in the realms of possibility" following the sale of Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr Gachet" for a new world record of \$82.5 million (£49.7 million) on Tuesday night, according to Mr Christopher Burge, president of Christie's North America and the auctioneer at the sale.

So jubilant was the mood of the crowd which virtually carried him in triumph to the press conference after the sale, that few reflected just how far the rest of the prices lagged behind. Prospects were nothing like so rosy for many of the 80 other works offered. Many fetched 20 to 30 per cent less than their estimates. Twenty-four went unsold.

The latest art market phenomenon is therefore a dramatic dividing of the ways between top quality and the rest. The "Portrait of Dr Gachet" was always considered part of the top stratum.

The battle for the Van Gogh was the stuff of auction history. Bids started at \$20 million (£12 million) and moved swiftly upwards in units of \$1 million. The dealer, Mr Hiroyuki Kobayashi, entered at \$30 million, bidding unhesitatingly each time the bid was back in his court.

There was applause when the \$50 million barrier was passed. There was excited laughter at \$63 million, and people started craning to get a look at Mr Kobayashi. There was a pause at \$71 million, and everyone waited for the sound of the gavel. It did not come, and the bidding proceeded.

There was a further pause, while the anonymous telephone bidder considered the situation. He decided to proceed, but Mr Kobayashi was quick with his return shot. At \$75 million, the hammer came down to tumultuous applause. With its 10 per cent buyer's premium, the final figure was \$82.5 million.

Japan's collectors, page 13
Leading article, page 15



Dr Gachet: a painting worth almost £50 million

Political sketch

Making heartfelt instincts clear

"IS MY best friend aware ..." — the effish Nicholas Bennett (C. Pembroke) had the Minister for consumer protection, Eric Forth, in his sights — "... that coming onto the market are some innocuous-looking and prettily-packaged goods, with no price-tag on them, emanating from an address on the Walworth Road ..." The rest was lost in laughter.

Opposition Front-Benchers, the authors of Labour's newly-unveiled policies for the next election, adopted the "no comment" game that we have come to recognize on the face of the businessman emerging from his Jaguar to be confronted by a microphone, a camera, and one of Esther Rantzen's lieutenants.

Forth chuckled. "These products are grotesquely unsafe for the public."

The Daily Telegraph had made the same point that morning, eloquently: "Labour cannot be blamed for wanting to conceal its true intentions until the last possible moment," said its leading article. It will be the first of many, all wide of the mark.

Opposition parties do not conceal their intentions. They do not have intentions. They are not capable of it. They are shifting coalitions with differing hopes, no foreknowledge of future events, and no agreed plan for dealing with them.

What political parties do have is instinct. To search these out is more useful than the search for intentions. To know where a party's heart is, and to guess its likely behaviour. Such guesses may prove more accurate than its own.

Faced with the closure of part of a nationally important business by a commercial management, the Tory Party's instinct is to let it go. Labour's instinct is to do something. Yesterday, the Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, reported British Steel's intention to close the hot strip mill at Ravenscraig. For Labour, Donald Dewar replied. Each found himself displaced from his own party's instincts.

For Rifkind the displacement was much more immediately painful. He was obliged to imply that he knew better than British Steel what lay in its commercial interests. He "deplored this

Matthew Parris

Menem moves out

Buenos Aires
PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina has moved out of the official residence to end highly publicized matrimonial strife that has taken on political overtones, the Argentine press reported yesterday.

Señor Menem, aged 59, who

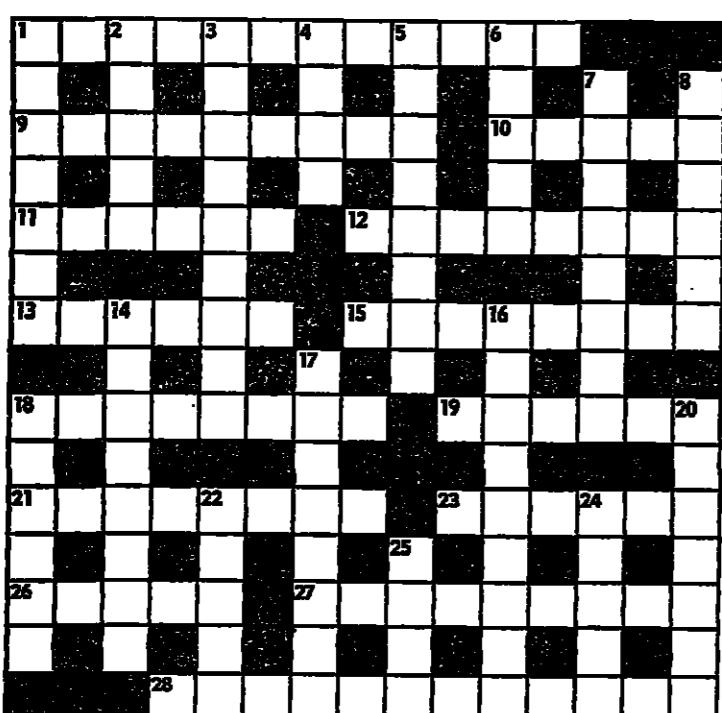
led the Peronist Party to victory in the May 1989

elections, has described his wife as one of the "harshest critics" of his free-market reforms.

Señora Zulema Menem, aged 46, has publicly questioned the effect his policies will have on workers, pensioners and the poor. She

has accused her husband's aides of corruption and maintained ties with his foes. (AP)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,296



ACROSS

- Is, perhaps, right? It's wrong for cleric (6).
- Cleans inside sink, so to speak (9).
- Above a pound of tea, we hear (5).
- Complete home address (6).
- Too big for his boots, acted like a boulder? (6-2).
- Gang-leader has to discourage dangerous criminal (6).
- Poison, possibly, for US revolutionary without first name (8).
- It was just the ticket for Jack (8).
- Encounter opponents at bridge, returning prize (8).
- The day's modelled in a modest way (8).
- Organized workers to investigate Italian type (6).
- Present some children do without (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,295

BESTSELLER MESH
U A W O R D V E
N E W Z E A L A N D M I E N
K D E L E O D C
J U S T I N S I N C E R E
S W P T T N F
P E T T I F O G G H E T T O
L P A E R
I M P A L E A R G U M E N T
T A I R T H A H
H A V E A C A R E A W R Y
A L M C R N M E
I R O N B E H I N D H A N D
R V M A U T R E
S N A P W E L L S P O K E N

27 Only pretended, and so it is false (3-6).

28 Loose women rush round me in the ship (3,7).

29 Walking to north from station (7).

30 One caught, inter alia, in second test? (5).

31 Person who acts deliberately to brake vehicle (9).

32 Explorer's estate (4).

33 Unfairness within unions (8).

34 Rogue son's taken over party (5).

35 By the way, it's invariably found (8).

36 Special plates for main diet (6).

37 Two little boys in William's place (8).

38 Like man having endless row, in a state (9).

39 People's representative — one out of 16 changed (5,3).

40 Gate secured by catch, possibly (6).

41 Maintain watch on old warship (7).

42 Keep horse on canal, perhaps (5).

43 Fish with 16 for a spell (5).

44 Prejudice in certain spheres directed towards Jack (4).

Concise Crossword, page 22

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MYRINGA

a. The mock orange
b. An ear drum
c. A ring of mice

GHAZI

a. An outdoor laboratory
b. A Muslim warrior
c. Persian carpet with animals

AUSTRINGER

a. A keeper of goshawks
b. A Mediterranean south wind
c. A bullfighter's valet

BOGUSWARE

a. Petticoat Lane porcelain
b. A false alarm
c. Malevolent computer software

Answers on page 22

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London within N & S Circ. J731 M-ways/rds M4-M1 M25 M23 M-ways/rds M1-Dartford T-J733 M-ways/rds M25-T-M23 J74 M-ways/rds M25 London Orbital only

National traffic and roadworks

J731 M-ways/rds M4-M1 M25 M-ways/rds M1-Dartford T-J733 M-ways/rds M25-T-M23 J74 M-ways/rds M25 London Orbital only

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Information supplied by Met Office

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at the following times today: 6.30pm and 10pm.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 20C (68F); min 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F). Humidity: 65%, 58% pm. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 7.0 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1010 mbars. Wind: 1000 mbars to 29.53m.

HIGH & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Heathrow Airport, 22C (72F); lowest day temp: Filey Ness, 15C (60F); highest rainfall: Bogart Regis, West Sussex, 11.9 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.6 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 am to 6 pm, 8.6C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.48 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.6 hr.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at the following times today: 6.30pm and 10pm.

TONIGHT'S WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day,

BUSINESS

THURSDAY MAY 17 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6775 (-0.0005)W German mark
2.7569 (-0.0099)Exchange index
87.4 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1739.8 (+8.2)FT-SE 100
2221.1 (+8.9)USM (Datstream)
130.26 (+0.27)

Market report, page 32

Shares in
Dan-Air
firm soar

SHARES of Davies & Newman Holdings, owner of the Dan-Air airline, soared at the prospect of either a bid or a co-operation deal, probably involving a competitor taking a substantial stake.

The shares ended up 150p at 575p after the company said it was in discussions with a number of interested parties. Speculation centres on moves from a US or European airline. Comment, page 27

Profits drop

Avon Rubber suffered a 20 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £4.84 million in the six months to March. Earnings per share were 37 pence down at 13.7p. The dividend stays at 5p. Tempus, page 26

Ultramar hit

Ultramar reports first quarter net income of £18.4 million compared with £32.2 million last time, after suffering from lower refining margins in California. Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York:
Dow Jones 2611.81 (-10.84)
Midex 3196.72 (-29.42)Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 2342.89 (-16.20)Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency 1183.1 (-0.4)

Sydney: AO 1493.8 (-14.7)

Frankfurt DAX 1841.74 (-0.9)

Brussels: 6188.44 (+2.24)

Paris: CAC 563.15 (+1.02)

Zurich: Ska Gen 618.4 (-1.7)

London:
FT-A All-Share 1094.43 (+4.74)

FT- "500" 1198.84 (+5.43)

FT Gold Mines 278.0 (+0.2)

FT Fixed Interest 86.13 (0.02)

FT Govt Secs 76.51 (-0.14)

Reches 485p (+1.52)

FALLS:
Henderson Admin 625p (-100)

Grant Met 573p (-100)

Eurofins Units 516p (-100)

Grail 158p (-100)

News Corp 462p (-100)

Globo 782p (-300)

Kleen-Eze 124p (-200)

Closing prices: 24385

SEAS Volume 490.6m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%

3-month Interbank: 15% - 15.5%

3-month eligible bills: 14% - 14.5%

US Prime: 10%

Funds 8%*

3-month Treasury Bills: 7.7% - 8.6%

30-year bonds: 101-101.5*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:

\$ 1.6775 \$ 1.5780*

£ DM 7.589 \$ DM 1.5433*

\$ SWF 2.493 \$ FF 5.5400*

Yen 254.48 \$ Yen 151.50*

ECU £0.739714 \$ 0.763115

Ecu 1.351673 \$ 1.351650

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$369.60 pm \$389.85

close \$369.75 - \$370.25 (£219.75-220.25)

New York: Comex \$369.70 - \$370.20*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$17.800b (\$18.10)

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ Bank: 2.22 Boys: 2.16

Austria Sch 20.65 19.10

Belgium Fr 2.045 1.945

Canada \$ 11.10 10.40

Denmark Kr 6.57 5.47

France Fr 9.73 9.13

Germany Dm 2.26 2.21

Hong Kong \$ 20.50 20.50

Ireland £ 1.02 1.015

Italy Lira 2130 2000

Japan Yen 250.75 250.75

Netherlands Gld 3.22 3.10

Norway Kr 1.25 1.058

Portugal Esc 2.57 2.41

South Africa Rr 5.45 4.00

Spain Pts 180.00 160.00

Sweden Kr 3.65 3.55

Switzerland Fr 2.465 2.305

Turkey Lira 4475 4075

USA \$ 1.75 1.85

Yugoslavia Dr 24.50 21.50

Rate for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank Plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Five star rating

Guerin 'sold arms illegally to South Africa'

By Angela Mackay

MR JAMES Guerin, the former deputy chairman of Ferranti International, masterminded a scheme to export weapons illegally to South Africa, according to evidence presented by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

The US District Court of Pennsylvania was told by special agent Mr Gerard O'Callaghan that Mr Guerin and his brother-in-law Mr Carl Jacobson established a "front" company in New York, Gamma Systems, which was only a post office box to deceive the authorities.

In the early 1970s, Mr Guerin, an American, founded International Signal & Control, a weapons and aviation company, and later sold the Pennsylvania-based company to Ferranti, the British defence and electronics group, for £460 million. Last September, a few months after Mr Guerin resigned from the board and sold

his shares, Ferranti announced it had uncovered a £215 million shortfall in the value of its assets caused by alleged large-scale frauds at ISC.

Mr O'Callaghan said: "Gamma was a front company to put ISC at arms length from transactions to South Africa" but he did not reveal the details of these transactions.

On Tuesday, a representative of the US Internal Revenue Service gave evidence at the hearing that Mr Guerin had directed a \$1 billion military contracts fraud during the 1980s which had artificially inflated the share prices of both ISC and, later, Ferranti.

The FBI agent told the US District Attorney, Mr Robert Goldman, yesterday that Gamma Systems was one of the companies involved in the \$1 billion fraud as well as illegal arms shipments.

Representing the government, Mr Goldman is trying to maintain a court

order which has frozen \$2 million deposited with the court by Mr Guerin in a severance pay dispute with his former lawyer, Mr William Clark.

The government alleges Mr Guerin is not entitled to repayment of the funds because they were obtained through fraud and racketeering and that Mr Clark is not entitled to the money because he allegedly used extortion and blackmail to force Mr Guerin to sign the pay deal.

In his testimony, Mr O'Callaghan said Mr Clark knew of ISC's illegal activities. He said he had gleaned this from interviews with a former ISC finance executive, Mr James Deitch, who said Mr Clark told him: "Those (ISC) people have to worry, they are going to jail."

According to the FBI agent, Mr Deitch told two former directors of Ferranti, Mr Joseph Zilligen and Mr Clyde Ivy, were "criminals and crooks."

Mr Guerin said in January that Mr Clark

forced him to sign the pay agreement using blackmail related to the web of illegal activities. He said he secretly taped conversations with Mr Clark which would prove this. The tapes have been subpoenaed by a Grand Jury.

Ferranti has issued writs for damages against Mr Guerin and eight other companies, false inventories and forged contracts to hide the frauds. Before the Ferranti takeover, ISC chose a listing on the London stock market; rather than in the US, because disclosure requirements were less severe.

Meanwhile, in a separate court hearing, Mr Jacobson was sentenced to two months imprisonment for his role as a "hagman" in buying a US Navy official with \$30,000 to try to obtain more defence contracts for another company founded by Mr Guerin, United Chem-Con. Several United Chem-Con executives have been convicted. Mr Guerin has not been charged in the matter.

Lonrho to sue Tebbit over HoF takeover

By Graham Seargent, Financial Editor

LONRHO, the international trading group, has issued a writ against Mr Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary at the time of the takeover of House of Fraser by the Fayedys five years ago.

The writ, which claims substantial damages, names the Secretary of State, making it effectively a writ against the Government of the day.

Lonrho accuses Mr Tebbit of negligence and abuse of his powers and claims damages for the loss of Lonrho's opportunity to bid for House of Fraser at the crucial time.

The release was announced simultaneously with Mr Tebbit's decision not to refer the Fayedys to the MMC. The latter was taken unusually rapidly, only 10 days after the bid was announced.

The crucial delay in releasing Lonrho from its undertaking, despite publication of the

report recommending Lonrho be freed to bid, has never been satisfactorily explained.

Mr Tebbit flew out of London and was unavailable for comment yesterday. He is believed to be returning later today. So the writ has not yet been served.

Due to the rules of Crown privilege, suits for damages against ministers acting within their powers, or the Government, are rare. It would be open to the Government to support a defendant being sued over his duties as a minister. It is also possible the writ could be legally challenged, delaying or obviating substantive hearing of the issue.

Lonrho has already attempted to sue the Fayedys, Kleinwort Benson (their merchant bank adviser on the HoF bid) and Mr John MacArthur, then a director of Kleinwort Benson. But a long-running challenge to the writ awaits final appeal to the House of Lords. Bernard Stanley, a construction group now half-owned by Lonrho, has also issued a writ against the Fayedys.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said the action against Mr Tebbit had been considered earlier, but that Lonrho had had to wait for the inspectors' report into HoF to be published and await actions to it.

"If people are going to sit around doing nothing and allow an uneven playing field to exist in this country, the only option is to take action for ourselves," he added.

Tebbit: unavailable

Sheppard scoops up a winner



Ice-cool cheer: Allen Sheppard (left) and Ian Martin launch Haagen-Dazs in London, served by Lisa Blake

BAE to buy three Rush businesses

By Jeremy Andrews

BRITISH Aerospace is to buy three regional construction businesses of Rush & Tompkins, the property group which collapsed last month with debts of more than £300 million.

BAE will expand the British operations of Ballast Nedam, its civil engineering subsidiary, by paying Rush's receiver an undisclosed sum for six regional offices, plant and work in progress, and will be offering new contracts to about 250 of Rush's 1,750 former employees. BAE acquired Ballast Nedam for \$90 million in December 1987, nine months after it bought Royal Ordnance.

Although based in Holland, Ballast was bought from Wedge International, a Lebanese company, and has substantial operations in Saudi Arabia, where it has been active for 27 years.

Ballast's turnover last year was £450 million, but only £20 million came from the UK, where it employs just 150 of its 4,000 staff.

Mr Philip Alexander, BAE's director of strategic planning and business development, said it was BAE's policy to increase the size of the UK operations.

BAE will be taking on Rush & Tompkins' construction assets in the South-east, Southwest and northern regions.

British Aerospace is not buying Rush's property development business.

'Mad cow' upsets GrandMet

By Our City Staff

AN OUTBREAK of stock-market jitters over "mad cow disease" and its impact on the British restaurant business marred the announcement of a sharply-higher set of interim profits from Grand Metropolitan, the drinks, food and publs group, driving the shares 13p lower to 574p.

GrandMet had contingency plans to switch entirely to imported meat within two days if customers at its Burger King and other restaurants in Britain "voted with their feet"

and there was a fall in demand.

Profits at Burger King,

bought as part of the \$5.75 billion purchase of the US Pillsbury food business in 1988, jumped from £14 million in the three months they were included in figures last year to £53 million for the half-year. Trading profits from the rest of Pillsbury's business rose from £40 million to £100 million over the same period.

Tempus, page 26

NatWest aims to add French bank to European network

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

the bank had received many offers for the bank, but L'Europeenne's management had chosen NatWest as its preferred parent.

L'Europeenne has total assets of FFr13.79 billion (£1.46 billion) and last year made a net profit of FFr6.5 million. It has 16 branches, half in Paris, and employs 1,300.

The bank specializes in wealthy "gold card" customers, and has 50,000 accounts. It also caters for medium-sized company accounts. Its main subsidiary is Laffitte Investissement, which has 250 life assurance salesmen operating from 24 branches.

The bank also has a strong presence in France.</

CU and Sun Alliance fall to losses in first quarter

By Graham Seargent, Financial Editor

COMMERCIAL UNION and Sun Alliance joined the composite insurers making substantial losses in the first quarter of the year, due to the January storms in Britain and on the Continent.

Commercial Union recorded a £25.6 million pre-tax loss for the first three months of 1990 against a £45.1 million profit a year ago.

The storms cost Commercial Union £55 million, less than half gross claims thanks to reinsurance.

Of this, £36.5 million was in the United Kingdom, while £22 million was to remanage reinsurance protection.

Mr Tony Friend, the chief executive, said that intense competition in Commercial Union's main markets was still keeping premium rates relatively low.

Sun Alliance does not publish quarterly results but said

at its annual meeting that it had suffered a substantial pre-tax loss in its first quarter.

It confirmed that storm losses were £220 million, some £150 million more than usually expected from winter weather.

Sun Alliance had less catastrophe reinsurance protection than other composite insurers.

Commercial Union is taking advantage of a new European Community directive to launch Privilege Portfolio as a Europe-wide unit trust (UCITS) from June 1.

The umbrella fund will enable investments to be made in 18 underlying funds, mainly equities, but including money funds in different currencies, a Spanish bond fund and a "green" fund.

Charges are 5 per cent initially and 1.25 per cent annually on equity funds and 0.5 per cent annually on



Wyand: heading new fund money funds, though there will be a bonus for those applying in the first six weeks.

Holders can choose a managed fund or make up to 10 switches between funds per year by telephone free themselves.

Mr. Tony Wyand, the Commercial Union director

who heads the new fund, said the Privilege Portfolio was planned as the group's first pan-European product.

Initially, however, it will be launched in the UK, France and Spain.

CU hopes to gain permission to sell in Italy soon, and has also applied for licences to sell in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Legislation to facilitate UCITS is not yet in place in some European countries and will not reach Greece and Portugal before 1991.

Initial charges will also vary according to the market, with 3 per cent being charged in Spain, against 5 per cent in Britain.

But charges will be waived for units bought through intermediaries charging their clients fees rather than claiming commissions, and individuals may be able to claim they are acting as agents.

JAMES MORGAN

Greenall likely to trim its workforce

By Jeremy Andrews

GREENALL Whitley, which sold its Vladivostok vodka business to American Brands last month, is likely to slim the workforce at its Warrington brewery before the end of the year because of falling beer sales.

The company, whose managing director is Mr Andrew Thomas, is also set to announce redundancies at its remaining distribution depot in Birmingham after the closure of the former Davenports brewery last year.

The news accompanied Greenall's results for the six months to March, during which turnover rose 4 per cent to £243 million and trading profits from brewing and pubs increased 6 per cent to £16.4 million. However, most of Greenall's other businesses fared better, leaving trading profits 22 per cent higher at £23.7 million and fully-diluted earnings per share 26 per cent ahead at 12.6p. The interim dividend rises 21 per cent from 3.3p to 4p.

Trading profits at Greenall's hotels rose 24 per cent to £8.43 million. Occupancy rates are holding up, but losses at its US hotels rose from £280,000 to £347,000. Greenall has closed its US head office and hopes to sell the US chain, valued at £35 million.



Half-year results ahead: Andrew Thomas at one of Greenall's hotels yesterday

Shortfall of £2.8m revealed at Bekhor

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

AJ BEKHOR, the private client stockbroker, has gone into receivership with an estimated £2.8 million shortfall in funds. The receivers may now pursue the company's shareholders to try to recover the money.

The receivers were called in at Bekhor earlier this month, after it was put in liquidation in late April.

The firm, once one of

Britain's largest stockbrokers with 60,000 clients, stopped trading six months ago, when most of its staff and customers were transferred to Brewin Dolphin.

Unusually the company was unlimited, which means its shareholders are ultimately responsible for its debts, which include an unsecured £500,000 claim from the Inland Revenue. The main

shareholders were, however, Bekhor's associated companies, some of which may also go into liquidation.

The receivers are likely to trace Bekhor's ultimate owners to see if they can receive any money from them.

These are believed to include Jonathan Bekhor, now believed to be in San Diego, California.

"This is something that will

take a lot of unravelling," said one of the liquidators.

Bekhor's problems stemmed from the worldwide stock market crash in October 1987, when it met losses of more than £5 million from traded options dealings.

Following that Bekhor suffered from being undercapitalised and the burden of maintaining an expensive branch network.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Signs of dirty dealing

STOCKBROKERS at Cazenove and James Capel wear the most sombre suits in the City, and, surprisingly for such a conservative profession, lawyers at Clifford Chance and Linklaters & Paines wear the flashiest, with horror of horrors, an increasing number of Prince of Wales checks cropping up. So says William Holt, who, together with Jeremy Wayne, aged 31, runs the City laundry and dry cleaning service Shirt Point. As well as washing 4,000 City shirts a week, they clean 250 suits. "About 60 per cent of them are tailor-made — very smart and very expensive," says Holt, aged 24. Even though the average City gent is apparently cleaner than more ordinary mortals — each of his eight suits is cleaned once a month, notching up a monthly bill of about £80 — if he is a broker employed on an open-plan dealing floor the experts can tell at a glance. "Their suits are always particularly filthy — they always stink of cigarette smoke," says Wayne. And when it comes to ties, Holt confirms that Hermes really is *de rigueur* in the Square Mile. "Every other tie we get sent is a Hermes — it's quite staggering," he observes. But presumably, to the average City gent, any other brand would be regarded as disposable.

Crunch for yuppies

PETER Rawlins, chief executive of the Stock Exchange



"We shall now have a five-minute period of consolidation."

Capel. But the noises have nothing to do with salesmen eager to follow former chief executive Peter Quinlan to pastures new. The firm has, in fact, been invaded by a plague of mice, escaping from building sites behind its plush Bevis Marks offices — and they appear to be in no hurry to leave. Jim Ford, who looks after office services for the firm, has been given the difficult task of keeping the invaders in check. "Some girls have seen the mice running along the ceilings," explains Ford, who tells me that he has been putting down poisoned bait in an effort to catch the intruders. "Every now and then we see a mouse or wobbly legs walking round the floors — a bit like one of the traders, really."

Part-time Prof

ECONOMIST Tim Congdon, often described as "the last monetarist in the City," left Shearson Lehman where he was chief UK economist a year ago to become an adviser to Gerrard & National, the discount house, has now been dubbed "The Prof". For Congdon, aged 39, who began his economic career as a journalist on *The Times* — recruited by Peter Jay, now head of BBC Television's business unit — has just been made an honorary professor at Cardiff Business School and will be spending one day a week there during term time, lecturing on monetary economics. "I might not seem like an obvious choice," the successful grammar school boy admits, "but I have done a lot of academic work which has been influential in the formation of economic policy." While at Gerrard & National he has, during the past six months, established

Lombard Street Research, which he says, "provides economic research to financial institutions, particularly information relevant to interest rate decisions." Congdon owns 49 per cent of this joint venture, with Gerrard & National holding the balance.

Chateau detour

THE extent and variety of the private investments of people who work in the Square Mile were amply illustrated when Low & Bonar, the Dundee-based packaging company, chartered two helicopters to take 15 or so analysts and corporate financiers from Battersea to Leominster, Herefordshire, on Tuesday.

The aim of the trip was to show them the factory where Low & Bonar manufactures Silofit, the black plastic sheeting used by farmers to cover straw bales. But en route they first had to circle over the Barnes home of Mike Anderson, a paper and packaging analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, so that he could see whether the plumber had arrived, and then the Herefordshire vineyard — Broadfield Court — owned by Duncan Clegg, from Lazzards. "He took aerial photographs of the house and vineyard," says one of the hosts. But Low & Bonar had the last laugh. It gave out bottles of Clegg's wine — Bodenham Reichensteiner, re-labelled Chateau Lazar — to each visitor and then handed Clegg an invoice, which he graciously agreed to reimburse.

Carol Leonard

Rolls will help in Russian jet plan

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero-engine manufacturer which helped to power Concorde, is to inject its expertise in advanced jet engine design into a Russian plan to produce a supersonic business jet aircraft.

The Russians want to have what would probably be an eight-seater executive jet ready to fly by about the end of the century to woo big companies wanting to whisk their top people around the world at the greatest possible speeds.

The Russian-led work on the supersonic business jet could put the project ahead of the game in a new era of business travel — if it gets the go-ahead.

Gulfstream Aerospace of the US is already in a joint venture with the Russians, working on the airframe for the new jet.

Defence considerations mean that approval will be needed from the governments of the US, Britain and Russia.

Rolls-Royce has signed an agreement in Moscow which will allow initial design assessments for the engine to be made, working with Russia's Lyulka Engine Design Bureau.

This work will take a year and the first meetings, with a Russian team flying over, are expected next week at the Derby headquarters of Rolls-Royce.

Part of the work will be deciding what the likely market may be for such an aircraft by the year 2000. It could either be a two or three-engined aircraft and would probably need a minimum range of 4,000 nautical miles.

Engines of anything be-

tween about 13,000lb and 20,000lb thrust seem likely and whether existing engines at Rolls-Royce or Lyulka, or a combination, could be developed will be established. But an entirely new design is also a possibility, together with a new airframe.

A decision on whether to go ahead with the jet will be made at the end of the 12 months. Sukhoi, the Russian aircraft maker, will be the manufacturer.

Rolls-Royce and France's Snecma are the only manufacturers to have produced engines for supersonic travel in civil passenger use. The are already looking at a new generation of supersonic engines of the size which would be needed to power a Concorde replacement.

COMMENT

Scots feel the cutting edge of British Steel

Unless one reads the full text through to the end, of the British Steel announcement on the Stock Exchange Topic screen yesterday,

the decision to close a chunk of the Ravenscraig steelworks might have been overlooked. The announcement was headed "British Steel. Installation of new machinery" (ie, in fact it was

installation of new machinery, but the spelling error is more likely to have been Topic's than British Steel's).

Unlike the Miss World competition, the winners were announced first: Llanwern is to get a new continuous casting machine installed at a cost of £83 million. Ravenscraig is to get the sticky end of the paintbrush, and 770 jobs are to go.

The announcement brought the number of jobs lost in steel to nearly 2,000 so far this year, and came as little surprise either in Scotland or in the City. The sword has been hanging by the thread for years, and the best that Ravenscraig can reasonably expect is that British Steel will honour its pledge to keep steelmaking alive at the plant until 1994. Even that is hedged with caveats about market conditions, and after that, British Steel is more likely to opt for the £100 million a year of cost savings from closure than for the comfort of keeping Ravenscraig alive, unless demand is by then particularly buoyant.

At present, the omens are not good at all. Domestic demand is running 10 per cent or more below that of a year ago, and the continental European market is being hit from many directions at once: the Chinese have virtually stopped buying and the Soviet Union stopped paying; Brazil is seeking to expand exports to generate hard currency and Korea is trying to make sure its two new integrated steelworks are kept busy. Imports are arriving by the shipload, exports more difficult.

The shares, meanwhile, are beginning to believe that the company has shaken off its nationalized industry mentality. While the price/earnings ratings of 6 and 7.25 respectively for 1990 and 1991 hardly reflect a glamour image, they are gradually creeping closer to the kind of ratings enjoyed by steel producers elsewhere in the world. Provided the company can continue to add value to the commodity product, either through acquiring the means of distribution as in the C Walker deal, which recently came out smiling from a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, or by finishing the product, the trend looks set to continue.

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Meanwhile, the domestic downturn is hitting profits. For the year to March 1990, the group is set to announce profits of some £725 million, but for the current year the figure is likely to sink to nearer £550 million, pulling earnings per share down from more than 28p to about 20p. The costs of the Ravenscraig cutbacks are

results, which will help future comparisons, but the cost savings will take time to come through.

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ning to believe that the company has shaken off its nationalized industry mentality. While the price/earnings ratings of 6 and 7.25 respectively for 1990 and 1991 hardly reflect a glamour image, they are gradually creeping closer to the kind of ratings enjoyed by steel producers elsewhere in the world. Provided the company can continue to add value to the commodity product, either through acquiring the means of distribution as in the C Walker deal, which recently came out smiling from a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, or by finishing the product, the trend looks set to continue.

Dan-Air flies realistic route

Second-line independent airlines are a fragile breed, especially when exposed to the shrinking package holidays market. So the owner of Dan-Air — Davies & Newman — is being no more than realistic in looking at the possibility of co-operating with a bigger player or even accepting a takeover.

Davies & Newman turned in a pre-tax loss of £3.34 million for last year as it found itself sandwiched between rising costs on the one hand and the slump in demand for package holidays on the other. Smaller airlines have already started to crash, most recently British Island Airways. Thomson's Britannia airline — market leader in charter — is cutting back hard. Dan-Air is the second largest operator in the charter market with 4.5 million seats sold last year. It

also sold 1.8 million seats on its short-haul scheduled services.

Dan-Air appears to have been talking to at least one major European airline, with speculation hovering over Air France and Lufthansa. There is also interest from across the Atlantic.

A European competitor might be expected to take a substantial stake in Dan-Air on the lines of the SAS 25 per cent stake in British Midland or KLM's 15 per cent in Air UK. But for a well-heeled transatlantic operator — say American Airlines — Dan-Air might well be an attractive bid target with its strong hubs in Gatwick and Manchester, plus the developing one in Berlin as Dan-Air reaches out into Eastern Europe.

David Brewerton



The hardest part about selling your business is uncovering the right buyer.

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No place for Hoskyns as CGS looks at UK growth

From Melinda Wittstock, Paris

CAP Gemini Sogeti, Europe's largest software services and information technology group, has ruled out a bid for Hoskyns, the British computer group which had been seen as a likely target.

But the fast-growing Paris company, which is anxious to expand its activities in Britain and has built up a hostile 22.6 per cent stake in SEMA, Britain's largest computer services company, confirmed however that it is looking closely at a number of other UK software houses.

CGS, which operates in 12 European countries and the US, has also been tipped as a likely bidder for SD-Sicon and Logica.

With Fr2 billion cash (£214 million) in the balance sheet and another Fr2 billion to Fr3 billion borrowing facilities in place, CGS said it could spend between Fr4 billion and Fr5 billion on acquisitions (compared with the Fr3 billion spent in the past five years).

But M Serge Kamps, CGS's founder and chairman, who is "scrutinizing all competitors for acquisition opportunities," said Hoskyns did not fit with the group's "seven golden rules about acquisitions."

He said a company must be engaged in the same or similar business — "and that rules out Hoskyns."

M Kamps, who owns 55 per cent of CGS, which is quoted on the Paris Bourse, also ruled out hostile bids.

He said CGS is interested in both large and medium-sized houses which are profitable, well-respected, share a business culture of "honesty, openness and loyalty" and come equipped with either strong management or management that can be easily replaced.

But CGS will take a "long, hard, critical look" at what is available to ensure that there are no cadavers, or skeletons, in the closet. Any British target must have audited ac-

counts and must not be engaged in any "risky ventures."

M Kamps said: "These criteria eliminate a high proportion of British computer companies that we have negotiated with. The situation in the UK is not that stable; we are in no hurry to build a large UK presence at any price."

But Mr John Marsh, managing director of the CGS UK subsidiary, a small software house providing command control systems for emergency services, said it will take just two to three years before CGS moves up from about 80th place in the British market to third or fourth.

Blue Circle in £93m Danish venture

By Our City Staff

BLUE Circle Industries is buying 50 per cent of Aalborg Portland Cement's cement business for 980 million Danish kroner (£93 million) cash. Aalborg Portland is Denmark's only cement maker.

The purchase includes Aalborg's related interests in aggregates, pulverized fuel ash and fuel trading, plus a 20 per cent shareholding in the Leigh White Cement Co in the United States. But it does not include Aalborg Portland's interest in the companies Dansk Eternit Faerdigbeton Aalborg, Faxe Kalk, HKT and Spædbetont.

Aalborg will transfer its cement business to a new company in which Aalborg and Blue Circle will each hold 50 per cent.

The cement business had pre-tax profits of 80 million kroner in calendar 1989 and net assets of 893 million kroner. It sold 1.3 million tonnes of grey cement in Denmark in 1989.

Blue Circle said the purchase fits its strategy of extending its cement and related activities to the Continent.

It said the business is expected to increase sales in the Danish market this year and the joint venture has the opportunity "significantly to increase capacity utilization and profits in the export market for both grey and white cements."

Blue Circle shares advanced 8p to 218p.

CGS (UK) plans to expand beyond emergency services into the financial, manufacturing and patient care areas, mainly through acquisitions, although organic growth will figure largely. Joint ventures are also a possibility.

Mr Marsh, formerly with Control Data, said the subsidiary, which boasted 32.5 per cent growth in 1989, will profit from increasing demand for new IT integration systems, as well as advanced IT software.

CGS is now able to supply fire-fighters with vital computerized information about buildings containing flammable chemicals that can be utilized in the fire engine cab on the way to the incident.

CGS, which last month announced a 30.3 per cent rise in net profits to Fr525 million on turnover up 21.3 per cent to Fr7.06 billion, has forecast revenues of Fr8.5 billion, with net profit to "increase proportionally."

Order books, as of April 30, reached Fr4.8 billion, 24 per cent up on last year.

In 1989, margins were up from 6.9 per cent to 7.4 per cent, with earnings per share up from Fr16.01 to Fr20.77. CGS is paying a dividend of Fr6 per share.

M Kamps would not comment on the likelihood of a bid for SEMA.

Inchcape buys into US environment market

By Our City Staff

INCHCAPE, the international services and marketing group, is paying \$12 million for control of two leading environmental testing companies in Louisiana and Texas.

It is buying West-Paine, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, outright and 60 per cent of NDRC, which has operations in Dallas and Houston, with options to buy the balance in 1993 and 1995.

The two companies had a combined turnover of \$9 million in 1989. Describing the

acquisitions as "strategically very important investments," Sir George Turnbull, the chairman and chief executive of Inchcape, said the large and rapidly expanding environmental testing market offered significant opportunities to the group in North America.

Sir George added that Texas and Louisiana had become key states in the development of environmental testing because of their heavy industrialization and the increasing pressure from state environmental bodies.

SUNALLIANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The First Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance Group plc was held yesterday at the Head Office of the Company in Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.2.

Mr. H. U. A. Lambert, the Chairman, said —

It is not the Group's practice to publish quarterly results, but I shall provide a brief outline of our estimated results to 31st March.

Market conditions in the U.K. continue to be highly competitive and the rate of growth in premium income has fallen for most personal and commercial lines.

Overseas results have also been affected by severe weather losses and strong competition.

We have already signalled that despite reinsurance protection, the aggregate losses in the U.K. from the hurricane on 25th January and subsequent heavy storms are estimated at £220m. These losses are £150m higher than we would normally expect from winter weather and have inevitably led to a substantial overall pre-tax loss in the quarter.

Sun Alliance Group plc

Baris surges to £1.64m



Buoyant: Robert Smith, right, and Bernard Atkinson of Baris, whose profits rose 137%

STRONG organic growth share jumped by 136 per cent director with Mr Bernard Atkinson, added that the final dividend of 3.75p.

Mr Robert Smith, chairman, said prospects for the coming year were excellent. He said: "The areas we are working in are very buoyant,

and we expect them to stay that way."

Mr Smith, who is co-founder and joint managing

Damages against Smith & Nephew may reach \$125m

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

DAMAGES against Smith & Nephew, the pharmaceutical group, could rise to almost \$125 million following a California court ruling.

The court found that the company's US subsidiary committed fraud, acted in bad faith and attempted to misappropriate trade secrets without paying for them.

The court was considering last night whether to double a \$12.5 million portion of the damages already awarded against Smith & Nephew Richards and then add \$10 million in interest to the bill.

The decision is unlikely to be known for about a fortnight. A jury has already awarded \$102 million damages to Polteco, the private research company owned by Dr AE Zachariades, an American chemist who invented a compound for false joints.

Polteco began legal action against Smith & Nephew Richards on January 4, 1988, for taking his compound and using it without paying him in artificial knee and hip joints.

After a seven-week case, the jury found that Smith & Nephew Richards had fraudulently entered into a licence agreement with Polteco to keep the new technology away from competitors; that as one of America's leading orthopaedic product makers it had misappropriated Polteco's technology without paying for it; and had acted in bad faith by repudiating its obligations under a contract.

Smith & Nephew said it will

appeal and that it does not use, and never has used, any of the Polteco technology, which gives 10 times more wear in artificial joints. No formal appeal has yet been lodged.

Mr David Henderson, of Brown & Bain, attorney for Polteco, said Smith & Nephew Richards had been using the Polteco compound since 1982.

He claimed Smith & Nephew Richards' technicians deliberately found fault with it to avoid paying.

"Two independent laboratories gave evidence that the compound met the standards which Polteco and Smith & Nephew Richards had first set."

"They just wanted to keep that technology away from their competitors," said Mr Henderson.

Polteco has now licensed the compound to Zimmer, another orthopaedic products maker which will incorporate it in artificial joints in 1992.

Lawyers for the compound's inventor are to seek an injunction seeking to recall all Smith & Nephew Richards' products containing the compound which have not already been used.

It is unclear how the case will affect Smith & Nephew's American earnings. Mr Henderson said the company's 1989 results had singled out the performance of its surgical products group, saying the orthopaedic division — whose Genesis Knees and Opti-fix hips use the compound — rose 37 per cent.

Inchcape

"We have continued to grow in our main business activities..."

Inchcape

PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION UP from £148m to £176m 19%

Inchcape

EARNINGS PER SHARE UP from 24.1p to 28.3p 17%

Inchcape

DIVIDEND PER SHARE UP from 9.25p to 11.0p 19%

Inchcape

"We have maintained our programme of capital investment in our business streams, and the main thrust of that investment is to ensure that we are building a company that will continue to grow in the long term."

Inchcape

THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AND MARKETING GROUP

Comments by Sir George Turnbull, Chairman & Chief Executive. If you would like a copy of his full statement contained in our 1989 Report and Accounts, please write to Diana Le Lievre, Inchcape plc, St. James's House, 23 King Street, London SW1Y 6QY.

Mrs Fields in licence agreement

MRS FIELDS, the US biscuit maker has arranged a licence agreement giving La Petite Boulangere the right to sell Mrs Fields products and to re-launch more of its 104 stores as Mrs Fields Bisceries.

LPB, owned by Debbie and Randall Fields' private company, Mrs Fields Holdings, which in turn owns 60 percent of the public company, will pay royalties of 6 per cent on annual sales of Mrs Fields products in converted stores and 6.5 per cent in unconverted stores.

Mrs Fields has an option to buy LPB under an option agreement expiring in 1996. Shares in Mrs Fields closed up 14p at 301p.

Mrs Fields has also arranged a 10-year licence agreement giving Riverview Software the right to develop and market ROI, a store information management system used and owned by Mrs Fields.

Baggeridge falls

The house-building recession took its toll on Baggeridge Brick, the West Midlands brick manufacturer, with the group reporting pre-tax profits down from £4.15 million to £2.58 million in the six months to end-March, turnover down from £16.4 million to £15.9 million. Earnings per share fell from 6.91p to 4.25p, but the interim dividend is maintained at 0.75p.

Farmers ahead

Associated Farmers, the agricultural business which came to the Third Market last year, lifted pre-tax profits from £56,000 to £47,000 in the year to end-November. Turnover climbed from £339,000 to £437,000. Earnings per share rose from 1.55p to 1.61p. There was an extraordinary profit of £185,000. There is no dividend.

Film division up

The Rank Organisation's film and television services division made trading profits of £38 million in 1990 - a near-50 per cent increase. Turnover was 72 per cent higher at £351 million.

EC delay poses threat to recovery in Hungary'

From Wolfgang Münchau, Budapest

HUNGARY'S new Prime Minister, Mr József Antall, has warned that his country's economic recovery would be jeopardized if the European Community continued to drag its feet over Hungarian membership of the EC.

His comments are an implicit criticism of M Jacques Delors, the EC Commission president, who recently said that no new members were likely to join the Community before the end of the decade.

Mr Antall, who takes office shortly, said he hoped Hungary would become a full member of the EC by 1995, and an associate member shortly after 1992. He added that Hungary would fully support moves towards political union.

Speaking at a parliamentary conference on economic reform in Europe, he said: "Europe is at a stage where she has to re-think her policies, to widen her borders and to consider how to integrate political democracies which do not have the same homogeneous structure."

But he also urged Eastern European countries to adopt much tougher monetary measures. "It is not in the least irrelevant for central banks to be established, which are sufficiently independent to be able to enforce a monetary policy that will enable the market to function smoothly and be able to control the banking system," M Camdessus said.

Mr Antall pledged to press ahead with privatization programmes that would aim to reduce the Hungarian state's share of property ownership from 90 per cent to about 25

per cent. Advisers have been recruited from Britain.

Hungary will continue to repay its \$20 billion debt. However, Mr Antall said economic reform, although necessary, was not enough to achieve the desired results. Hungary needed more economic assistance to achieve a fast transition to a free-market economy.

About 1,100 joint ventures with Western companies have been formed - 30 per cent from West Germany, 29 per cent from Austria, and only 6 per cent from Britain.

M Michel Camdessus, director-general of the International Monetary Fund, said Western countries and institutions should open up their markets to Eastern European imports, facilitate the transfer of technology and help finance the modernization of Eastern Europe's infrastructure.

But he also urged Eastern European countries to adopt much tougher monetary measures. "It is not in the least irrelevant for central banks to be established, which are sufficiently independent to be able to enforce a monetary policy that will enable the market to function smoothly and be able to control the banking system," M Camdessus said.

Leucadia makes 'final' 275p offer for Molins

By Colin Campbell

LEUCADIA has formally raised its takeover offer for Molins from 253p to 275p a share and declared that the offer is "final" unless a competitive bidder appears.

The New York group had earlier sounded out institutional shareholders in the hope of securing indications that a 275p price would be acceptable and yesterday said it had bought 1.63 million Molins shares in the market - equivalent to 5.4 per cent - at 275p.

Leucadia added that Molins' accusations of "covert manoeuvring" are completely unfounded.



Building slump forces Diploma below £9m

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at DIPLOMA, the electronic components and building supplies group that gave warning of poor trading conditions at the end of last year, slipped from £9.8 million to £8.9 million in the six months to end-March despite a rise in turnover from £68.7 million to £72.3 million.

Earnings per share fell from 11.2p to 9.8p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 2.25p.

Mr Christopher Thomas, the chairman, said that despite

a fall in profitability, the results may be viewed as reasonably satisfactory. He said two of the three core activities, particularly building supplies, are operating under difficult conditions.

Mr Thomas said he is reasonably optimistic about the outcome for the remainder of the year. Mr Peter Wellington at County NatWest is looking for pre-tax profits of £18.2 million (£19.5 million) for the full year. The shares rose 7p to 183p.

(Source: TSE)

(1) Local currency.

Data fuel fears of US property crisis

From John Durie, New York

THE looming crisis in the US property sector has been underlined with the release of April figures showing the lowest level of new home starts since the 1982 recession.

The number of housing starts fell 5.8 per cent in April, after an 11.2 per cent fall in March and a 5.1 per cent decline in February.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange suspended trading in the morning.

The share price jumped from ¥19,500 to ¥21,500 (£84.90) on Tuesday in an unusually high turnover of 116,900 shares. About six times the average daily volume of the previous two weeks.

The decision by the Tokyo Stock Exchange to suspend the bank's shares was taken at its own discretion, a bank official said.

The bank informed the TSE of the proposed share split shortly before trading began yesterday, the official said.

The decision to suspend came 45 minutes after trading opened and was later upheld after the bank's directors approved the proposal at a board meeting shortly afterwards.

The share split announced after the close of trading is to take effect on August 11.

Under the plan, which has to be approved at a shareholders' meeting, the face value of the stock will be reduced from Y500 to Y30, giving shareholders 10 new shares for every old share.

The TSE would not comment on the reports of an investigation.

An official said: "We have not said whether we are investigating the matter or not. As far as we are concerned, the company has made its announcement."

An official at the finance ministry's securities bureau said it was aware of the case, but had not yet received any notification from the TSE seeking its assistance in investigating the matter.

Long-Term Credit Bank is the second largest of Japan's three long-term credit banks, with more than £5.8 billion in total assets.

(Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International)

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)
The World (free)	738.2	-0.0	-12.7	0.1	-8.1	-0.5	-9.2
EURO (free)	140.6	0.0	-12.8	0.0	-8.2	-0.5	-9.3
EURO (free)	1297.8	-0.1	-16.7	0.0	-12.1	-0.6	-13.3
Europe (free)	133.2	-0.1	-17.0	-0.2	-12.3	-0.6	-13.6
Europe (free)	740.2	0.4	-2.7	0.2	-3.0	0.1	1.2
Nth America (free)	159.1	0.4	-2.7	-0.1	-3.1	0.0	1.3
Nordic (free)	512.7	0.2	-4.7	-0.3	-0.7	-0.2	-0.8
Pacific (free)	1540.3	-0.3	-1.0	-0.7	-0.4	-0.8	3.0
Far East (free)	243.5	-0.2	3.5	-0.6	3.9	-0.7	7.7
Australia	299.1	-0.5	-24.6	-0.2	-17.4	-1.0	-21.5
Austria	296.0	-0.6	-14.8	-0.9	-8.4	-1.1	-11.3
Belgium	921.9	0.6	-6.4	0.0	-6.8	0.1	-2.5
Canada	501.4	-0.4	-16.5	-1.3	-11.8	-0.9	-13.1
Denmark	1310.3	0.4	-0.5	0.0	-1.0	-0.1	3.6
Finland	97.1	0.3	-15.8	0.0	-15.6	-0.2	-12.3
France	140.4	-0.2	-5.8	-0.5	-5.6	-0.6	-1.9
Germany	826.9	0.4	2.3	0.0	2.1	-0.1	6.4
Hong Kong	941.2	0.4	2.6	-0.1	3.8	-0.1	8.7
Italy	2241.0	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	4.9	-0.7	5.1
Japan	4581.5	-0.5	-25.7	-0.1	-18.3	-1.0	-22.7
New Zealand	893.3	0.7	-5.5	0.3	-4.8	0.2	-1.7
Norway	85.5	-0.4	-17.0	-1.1	-10.5	-0.9	-13.6
Spain (free)	1585.6	0.0	18.1	-0.3	19.4	-0.5	22.9
Sing/Malay	275.8	-0.1	18.1	-0.4	19.3	-0.6	22.9
Sweden	1923.0	-0.5	-3.6	-0.7	-2.1	-0.9	0.3
UK	2247.4	0.5	-5.1	0.1	-7.0	0.0	-1.2
USA	1703.5	-0.8	-2.9	-1.1	-1.9	-1.2	1.1
Switzerland	933.6	0.2	2.1	0.3	-3.4	-0.2	8.2
UK (free)	1416.5	0.2	1.5	0.2	-4.0	-0.3	5.6
USA	656.6	0.5	-8.7	0.5	-8.7	0.1	-4.9
USA	466.4	0.3	-3.7	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.2

(1) Local currency.

LONDON & ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Year to 31 December 1989

Highlights from Annual Review of Chairman, Michael Heller

- Shareholders' funds have increased to £21 million. The prime objective in the management of the Group is to achieve capital growth.
- Net asset value per share 50.6p (37.1p)
- Pre-tax profits have increased to £841,000 - as before there are no property dealing profits and all interest charges have been written off to Profit & Loss Account - all borrowings are very long term at fixed rates of interest
- Current annual rental income from the shop portfolio is approaching £3 million - the Group has more than 350 shops, 70% of which are freehold and the balance long leasehold
- Dividend increased by 15%
- Bisichi Mining PLC (38% owned associate) shareholders' funds are now in excess of £5 million - has increased its direct gold mining investments in South Africa and now owns 40% of South Murchison Consolidated Mines Ltd, which is listed on the South African Stock Exchange - also participates in direct gold mining in Western Australia and Utah (USA)

If you would like a copy of the 1989 Accounts for London & Associated Investment Trust PLC which will shortly be circulated to shareholders, please write to:

LONDON & ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

The Company Secretary (ref: TI)
London & Associated Investment Trust PLC
and/or Bisichi Mining PLC
30-34 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6LT

NESTLÉ S.A.

Notice to shareholders and holders of participation certificates

Nestlé S.A., Cham and Vevey (Switzerland) Withdrawal of the proposed capital increase

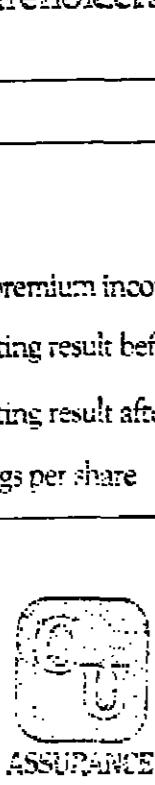
The proposals of the Board of Directors concerning items 5 and 6 of the agenda of the General Meeting of May 31, 1990, stated that the capital increase proposed under item 5 of the agenda was subject to the stock market conditions being favourable.

This capital increase from Fr. 346 500 000.- to Fr. 364 875 000.-, by means of a rights issue with a ratio of one new registered share for every twenty existing shares or one hundred participation certificates, respectively, was destined to further improve the financial structure of the company and to meet possible future needs.

In the meantime, the stock market situation has deteriorated to a point where this capital increase is no longer justified. The Board therefore deems it appropriate to withdraw its proposal regarding the capital increase and has modified the agenda for the General Meeting of May 31, 1990, accordingly: item 5 (capital increase) and the amendment of article 5 of the articles of association under item 6 of the agenda are being deleted.

Cham and Vevey, May 7, 1990

The Board of Directors



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WALL STREET

Modest gain for Dow

New York The Dow Jones industrial average was up by 2 points at 2,824.45 in early trading. Share prices were slightly firmer after a soft opening.

Analysts said investors were reacting to a modest rise of 0.2 per cent in consumer prices in April, believing that this and

other recent indicators show weakness in the economy and hold out the possibility of lower interest rates.

But one analyst said that the consumer prices were generally in line with forecasts and he expected consolidation of recent gains to continue and selling to develop. (Reuters)

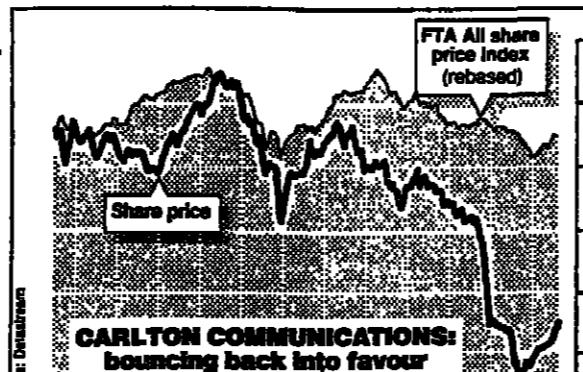
By Matthew Bond

WITH market-makers still believed to be short of stock, the mere suggestion that Lord Hanson could soon return to the acquisition trail was more than enough to send share prices moving swiftly ahead.

Quite where the cash-rich Lord Hanson might alight was unclear. But one name back in the frame was the Blue Circle cement group which has been linked on and off with Hanson for two years.

But Blue Circle, shrugging off such talk, yesterday announced that it had spent £93 million buying 50 per cent of Alabon Portland, the Danish cement group, its first European acquisition. Despite talk that the deal was a touch on the expensive side, Blue Circle shares rose 8p to 218p.

While the £17 billion that Hanson could spend was underpinning the entire London market, the name of Blue Circle refused to go away. Hanson already has considerable interests in the British building materials industry, owning both London Brick and the ARC aggregates group, the latter coming as part of Consolidated Goldfields last year. Blue Circle might fit in with them well. The price that Blue Circle was paying for its Danish acquisition started a strong rally



SOURCE: BUSINESS

May 16 May 15
Monday Close Monday Close

● SCIENCE: WORLD GROWTH
● TECHNOLOGY: PLASTIC PROJECT

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Emperor's New Mind by Professor Roger Penrose yesterday won the Science Book Prize.
Pearce Wright reports on his reactionary thesis on human minds

Professor Roger Penrose and Dr Arno Allan Penzias share the same page for their entries in *Who's Who 1990*. They have other distinctions in common. When exploring the Milky Way in 1964 with a radio telescope at the AT&T Bell Telephone Laboratories, in New Jersey, Dr Penzias and colleague Robert Wilson detected a persistent radio "noise" coming from any direction to which they pointed their microwave radio receiver.

THE EMPEROR'S NEW MIND

CONCERNING COMPUTERS, MINDS, AND THE LAWS OF PHYSICS

ROGER PENROSE

Their discovery of the background microwave radiation of the universe or "the cosmic whisper" as it is also known, which won them a Nobel prize, is still the most compelling evidence to support the theory of the Big Bang creation of the universe.

The finding confirmed earlier predictions that, if the Big Bang theory was to hold good, a gigantic flash of radiation would have been released to permeate the expanding universe and a tell-tale relic of the event should still exist.

At Oxford, as holder of the prestigious post of Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics, Roger Penrose is one of the leading scholars at the frontier of astrophysics and mathematics, identifying and assembling other major pieces of the jigsaw of the universe in the shapes of black holes, quasars, pulsars and superstrings. Professor Penrose has revealed many of the properties of black

holes, which occur when large stars collapse and reach a density such that even light cannot escape from their interior; it remains trapped by a huge gravitational force.

When the light becomes trapped, the scientists call the condition the "event horizon".

Professor Penrose - who collaborated on studies of black holes and gravitation with Stephen Hawking, Cambridge mathematician and author of the best-seller *A Brief History of Time* - has suggested that the event horizon traps scientists "peering" into the centre of a black hole. Scientists are also prevented from seeing a version of the ultimate catastrophe, the re-collapse, or end, of the universe.

Dr Penzias and Professor Penrose, even with their respective, clear ideas of the origin and the destiny of the universe, albeit described in mathematical terms as the ultimate space-time singularity, believe there are unsolved mysteries to the basic laws of physics that are deeper than their colleagues will concede.

When I interviewed Dr Penzias last year he had no hesitation in citing the biblical text on divine Creation in stating, there was nothing before the Big Bang. Conversely, Professor Penrose has no account of religion or other form of metaphysics in his examination of the miracle of consciousness that forms the

centrepiece for his award-winning book, *The Emperor's New Mind*. Indeed, his proposition is that an understanding of mind is inextricably bound up with understanding problems in modern physics. Moreover, he throws down the gauntlet to his contemporaries in a wide-ranging examination of the big mysteries of science and philosophy.

He opens the discussion by challenging a cherished belief among scientists that, given time, they will eventually create a machine capable of thinking and feeling like a human. His thesis is a major assault on the evangelists for "strong AI" (artificial intelligence).

Professor Penrose's offensive rests on the argument that he finds many areas of science wanting and that new, deeper laws of physics are needed before the question of the mind can be tackled.

Yet his attack on the disciples of AI might seem more appropriate to have come from the psychologists and psychoanalysts probing the nature of consciousness, or the neurobiologists, who confront daily the mystifying questions of how the interconnections of the brain work.

Professor Penrose says the book was inspired by the conviction that we shall not understand how our brains work until we have a better understanding of physics.

Recent advances in computer technology has lent new impetus, to

even urgency, to the issue, according to Professor Penrose, who believes the question touches upon deep issues of philosophy.

"What does it mean to think or to feel? What is a mind? Do minds really exist?" Assuming they do, he asks: "To what extent are minds functionally dependent upon the physical structures with which they are associated?" Might

'What does it mean to think or to feel? What is a mind? Do minds really exist? Are minds subject to the laws of physics? To what extent are minds functionally dependent upon physical structures?'

minds be able to exist quite independently of such structures? Or are they simply the functioning of physical structure?

Finally, Professor Penrose inquires: "Why, in any case, is it necessary that the relevant structures be biological in nature (i.e. brains), or might minds equally well be associated with pieces of electronic equipment? Are minds

subject to the laws of physics? What indeed are the laws of physics?"

Since his own research has benefited from the enormous increase in computer power, Professor Penrose seems an unlikely reactionary in the revolutionary world of computer science.

He is also well known for an ability to bring seemingly abstruse ideas into the arena of practical consumerism.

He rejects the idea that the sum of human knowledge can be reduced to a set of systematic rules that computer scientists know as algorithms and which they believe could be programmed into computers to mimic the human ability to think.

While Professor Penrose recognizes the extraordinary advances in programming machines to work as robots, and to be taught to outplay a chess grandmaster, he insists human thinking, with its ability for insight and flashes of inspiration, contains elements that are eminently "knowable" in the area of work by mathematicians but not "computable".

Few of his contemporaries would dispute that great gaps exist in our knowledge of physics generally. Yet it is those deficiencies that sustain Professor Penrose's argument that considerations of black holes and Big Bang have a direct bearing on the issues of understanding the mind and consciousness.

Scientific ideas reflect and mould the attitudes and needs of their time. *The Emperor's New Mind* is an account of a dazzling journey that has today's received wisdoms involving, among others, Maxwell, Galileo, Newton, Einstein, Planck, Dirac, Heisenberg and Schrödinger.

More important, Professor Penrose believes, "we shall need this new law if we are ever to understand minds".

"It will require some radical, different ideas about space and time," he says. "Most of the effort in physics has been in pursuit of the very small, building larger and larger particle accelerators to achieve the higher energies. It has been unfashionable to look at quantum theory. But this is a huge area and we are due for a revolution."

He speculates that the way forward lies in the creation of a new theory of "quantum gravity", which he believes might shed light on the phenomenon of human consciousness and thus help explain the operation of our minds.

But in the end, his argument, which depends on a challenge to strong AI, begs the question: if we don't understand the phenomenon of consciousness, how can we be sure it cannot be enjoyed by a machine?

● *The Emperor's New Mind*, (Oxford University Press £20). The Science Book Prize was established in 1986 by the Science Museum and the Committee for the Public Understanding of Science, formed by the Royal Society, the Royal Institution and the British Association for the Advancement of Science.



The serpent link with man

A new study which has resulted in the reclassification of a fossil found in Texas in 1908 could give the missing links between reptiles and mammals

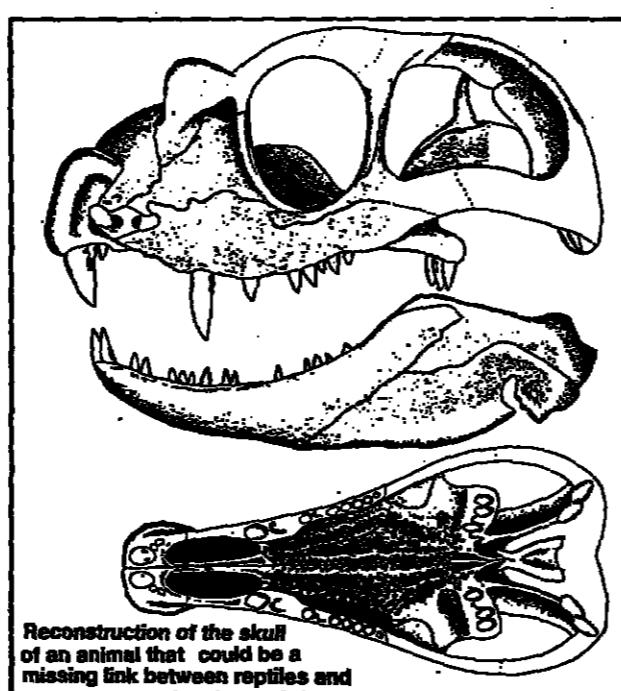
The four-inch-long skull of a fossil reptile that was first described in 1908 could represent a missing link in the line to mammals, including man.

The skull is the only known specimen of an animal called *Tetraceratops insignis*, and has languished in the American Museum of Natural History in New York since its discovery.

For more than 80 years, *Tetraceratops* has been classified as a pelycosaur, one of a group of primitive and very ancient reptiles that also included the familiar Dimetrodon, a fierce predator with a "sail" on its back, supported by grotesquely extended vertebral spines.

But a new study in today's *Nature* magazine by graduate student Michel Laurin and Professor Robert R. Reisz, of the University of Toronto, in Ontario, shows that *Tetraceratops* is not a pelycosaur; it is better seen as a therapsid, one of a more advanced class of extinct reptile thought to be directly ancestral to mammals.

The other problem is both geographical and historical, says Dr Alec Panchen, reader



Reconstruction of the skull of an animal that could be a missing link between reptiles and mammals showing the skull (top) and palate (bottom)

in Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Nearly all known therapsids come from Africa and Eurasia; the first ones to be discovered were soon recognized as having something to do with the ancestry of mammals. The pelycosaur heartland, however, is in the Red Beds of Texas.

Pelycosaurs were seen, quite simply, as reptiles. Because of the geographical separation, therapsid workers and pelycosaur workers rarely met, and tended to think along different lines.

The connection came only when anatomists realized that the disposition of the cheek bones is, to some extent, similar in both groups. But the lack of a fossil-form intermediate between the two - a missing link - has been "a big puzzle", says Professor Reisz. So when *Tetraceratops* was discovered in the Texas rocks that had already yielded Dimetrodon and its relatives, it was classified as a pelycosaur - nobody thought to compare it with therapsids.

The concept of a therapsid in North America was "totally alien", says Professor Reisz, and in 1908 there were no tools adequate to work on it. Mr Laurin has spent a year chipping away the rock with modern dental drills, reveal-

ing parts of the skull that had never before been seen. These show that *Tetraceratops*, although it has some archaic pelycosaur features, has about it a distinct air of therapsidness.

This enigmatic fossil could be the missing link between the earliest reptiles and man. Not that the question has been solved - far from it. However, some palaeontologists think that to arrange fossils in sequences of ancestor and descendant is philosophically suspect.

To do so, they say, prejudices the researcher against any other ideas about evolutionary change and ancestry. Brian Gardiner, professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at King's College, London, sees the transition from reptiles to mammals as the worst manifestation of this line of thinking.

Tom Kemp, of the University of Oxford, sees the transition for what it appears to be, but still thinks that there are other, more intriguing gaps to be filled. The leap from pelycosaur to therapsid, from one kind of reptile to another, is one thing; the division between reptiles and mammals "may be a bigger gap than many of us care to admit", he says.

Henry Gee

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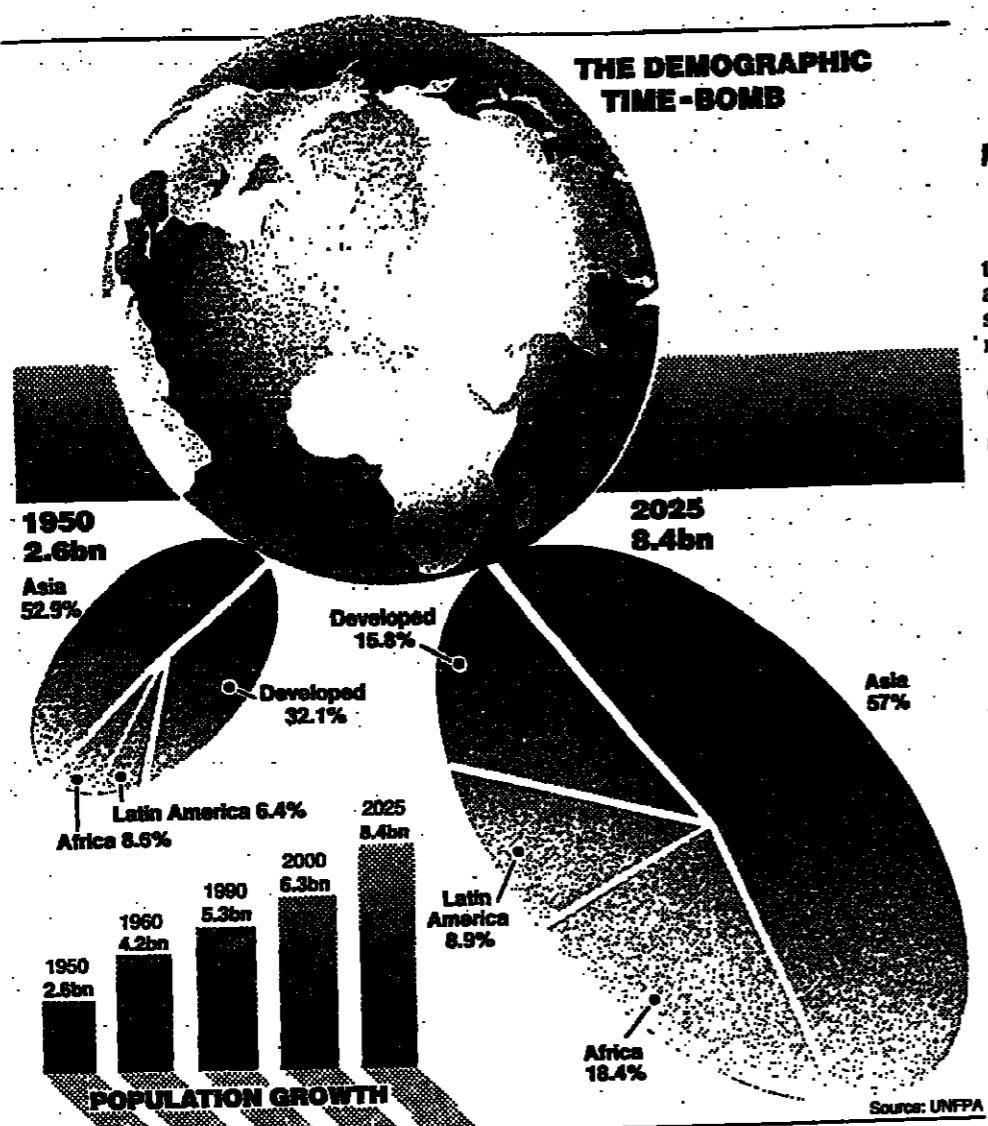
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The world is facing an unprecedented population explosion, with one billion more people likely to be born during this decade, at the rate of three every second, or about a quarter of a million every day.

The planet stands in a growing shadow of catastrophe as a result, according to a bleak report produced this week by the United Nations.

The population now is estimated at about 5.3 billion. By the year 2025, it could reach 8.4 billion, double the number of people who were alive in 1960. During the 21st century, it could soar to twice its present total.

The human time bomb is ticking loudest in the already overpopulated southern hemisphere, where in many countries family planning programmes are either nonexistent or ineffective.

This half of the globe contains the "bottom billion" of Africans and Asians who live in poverty, and whose needs increasingly lead to land degradation and rainforest destruction, according to the report, *The State of the World Population, 1990*.

Six or seven million hectares of agricultural land in the Third World is made unproductive each year through soil erosion, and some 11 million hectares of tropical forest and woodlands are cleared annually — an area the size of Austria and Belgium put together.

Meanwhile the "top billion", in terms of living standards, are spread among the industrialized nations of the northern hemisphere; they have the biggest share of resources and are most responsible for the greenhouse effect, acid rain and damage to the ozone layer.

Here birthrates are declining, but life expectancy is rising, so that the elderly will make up a bigger proportion of the population, causing increased costs of health care and social security.

The lifting of the Iron Curtain has revealed 40 years of environmental pollution and neglect. Eastern Europe is scarred by ruined forests, poisoned lakes and rivers and obsolete industries. In Hungary, every seventeenth death is attributed directly or indirectly to air pollution; in one

Romanian town, Giurgiu, 150,000 people a year have been treated for pollution-related lung diseases.

The rapid expansion of the human population is exceeded only by the spread of the motor car. Today, there are 400 million cars; by 2010 it could be 700 million.

By the year 2000, the number of women in developing countries using some form of contraceptive has to increase to \$35 million compared with 326 million today. This can be achieved, the report suggests, by doubling the current spending on family planning in these countries to about £5.35 billion a year.

Improving mother and child health, upgrading women's status and education, and making contraception as widely available as possible to both women and men are also essential, it says, and men must be encouraged to take a greater responsibility in restricting the sizes of their families, the report says.

"We are sawing through the branch that is holding us, and if we carry on as before, it may break and bring us crashing down with it."

What can and should be done to tackle such immense

that are cheaper, simpler, safer and more reliable should receive additional public funding. Countries badly hit by debt burdens and trade deficits need international support to protect their health and education programmes from budget cuts.

The second strategy is aimed more at the northern hemisphere, where the industrialized nations are urged to shift towards cleaner technologies, energy efficiency and resource conservation.

Carbon dioxide emissions will have to be controlled, perhaps through a tax geared to the emissions of different fuels to encourage economy. Shifts from fossil fuels to renewable sources such as wind and solar power, need to be encouraged.

"We are not talking about the interests of distant descendants," the report concludes. "It is our own children who will inherit a world twice the size of our own, who will farm one acre where we have three, and who will be denied the diversity of life we have enjoyed. The choice now must be to act decisively to slow population growth, attack poverty and protect the environment. The alternative is to hand to our children a poisoned chalice."

Happily ever after?

BRIEFING
vived an average of 17 days while the untreated ones survived an average of 12 days.

New study help

The ability to feed information into a computer with little or no human interaction is still relatively uncommon, used mostly in bar-coding at supermarket checkouts. Its increasing importance in areas such as voice recognition and computerized vision systems has resulted in the first British professorship in automatic identification being established at Teesside Polytechnic. The professorship is sponsored by a local technology company, Eyerex, which will provide industry speakers for the courses.

Friendly fuels

Producing bioethanol alcohol from grain, sugar cane or sugar beet crops, thereby turning them

into fuel is an expensive process that cannot compete with current oil prices of about £10 a barrel. But supporters of the concept, who met in The Netherlands earlier this week, argue that the product should have a future as an environmentally friendly product that is renewable and among the cleanest of the burning fuels. European farmers and companies keen to turn crops into fuel hope to exploit a proposed amendment to regulations in an EC scheme under which farmers are paid to leave surplus land fallow. Under the proposal, they could plant some with cereals used for purposes other than food and still retain 70 per cent of the subsidy.

Matthew May

Transplant hope

A synthesized substance which could help inhibit the rejection of transplanted hearts in animals has been reported by American scientists at a biotechnology company. They report that the substance, a soluble interleukin-1 receptor, blocks a master switch of the immune system and could also be used to treat diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. The researchers, at the Immune Corporation in Seattle, gave mice transplants of hearts that were mismatched with their heart tissue types, guaranteeing rejection. Those receiving the receptor molecule sur-

A light camcorder without the blur

VIDEO-CAMERAS, or camcorders as they are popularly known, have been reducing considerably in size and weight since they were introduced in the mid-Eighties.

Some now weigh less than a kilogram and, although convenient for the tourist or proud parent, the smaller and lighter a video camera is, the less stable it tends to be during filming, with slight jerks or shakes resulting in a blurred picture. Some camcorders include mechanical devices which attempt to dampen any movement of the lens if the camera is moved too sharply.

But last week the Japanese firm Panasonic went a step further, with the announcement of a new lightweight camera that can detect the blurring of a picture and, using part of an image stored a fraction of a second earlier, work out what the picture should have been.

As with other modern camcorders, this recorder uses a semi-conductor with a memory unit rather than a glass tube to record the pictures. During filming, video signals are continually analysed and put into a temporary memory.

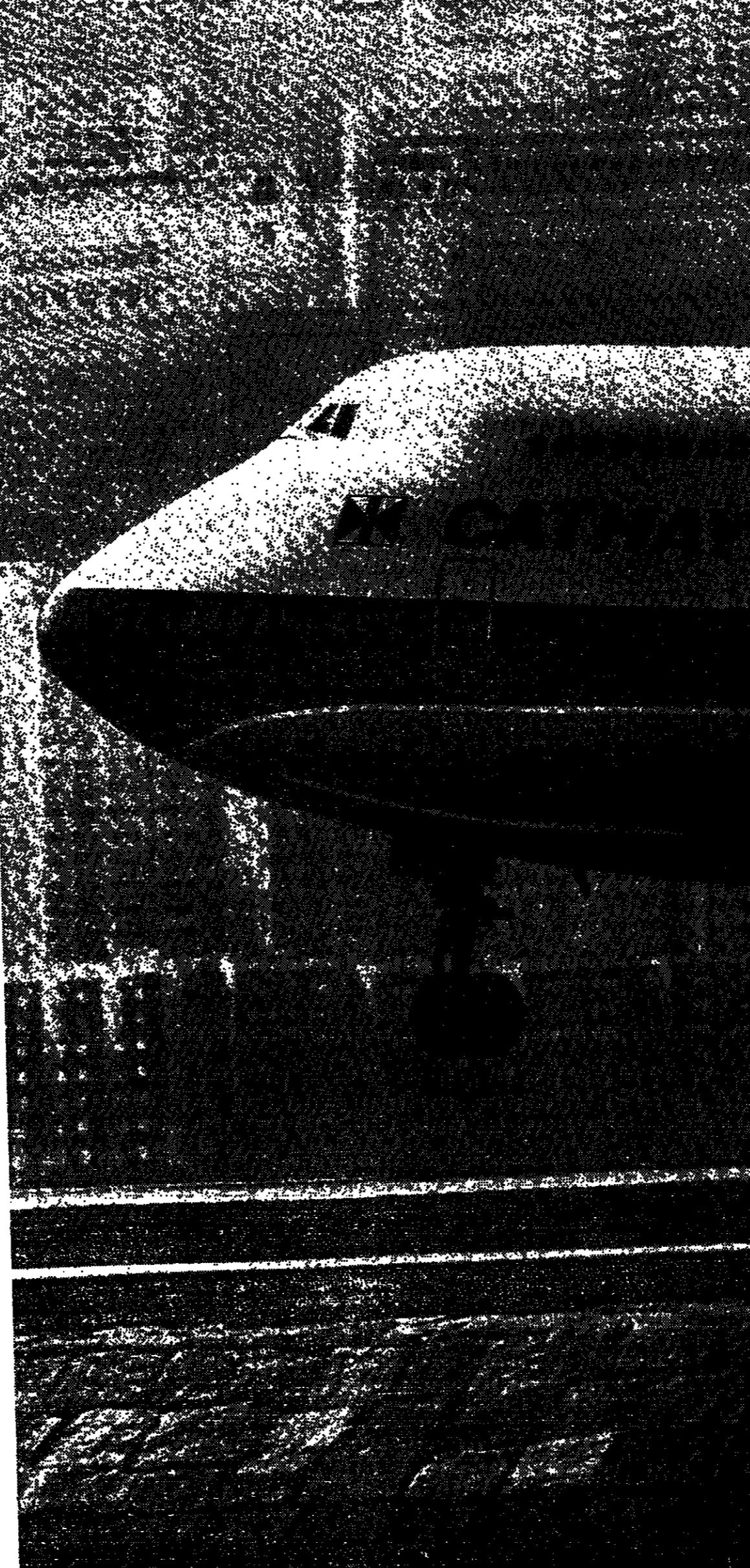
Matthew May

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sound means of suppressing noise

SOMETIMES noise is merely an irritation, but prolonged exposure to high noise levels can lead to stress, fatigue and even deafness. In some cases, the loss of hearing may be permanent, which is why employees who work in noisy environments often wear ear protectors to eliminate most of the sound.

But not everyone who is exposed to noise can wear ear protectors. Airline pilots, for example, must be able to hear sounds around them, including instrument warning systems which incorporate acoustic alarms. Several companies, including Bose, Sennheiser and Sony, are therefore working on noise-cancelling systems which reduce background sound levels but allow users to hear normally.

Sound level is measured in decibels (dB). A ticking watch is about 20 dB, normal speech 60 dB and a noisy office, 75 dB. When sound reaches the 85 dB to 90 dB mark, the risk of hearing damage begins.

The noise in a cockpit can be as high as 80 dB and most pilots wear headphones to reduce noise and receive radio messages. Headphones work by forming a sound barrier around the ears, but they often fail to cut out the very frequencies responsible for aircraft noise. Certain types of noise can also make the headphones vibrate, generating even more noise. To hear radio communications, the pilot must turn the headphone volume level up by at least

High noise levels can cause many illnesses, including deafness. But help is near at hand,

says George Cole

10 dB, which exceeds the safety limit. West German airline companies, in particular, have become concerned about the number of pilots forced into early retirement by hearing loss.

Sennheiser has also developed a circuit which automatically adjusts the amount of cancellation throughout the flight (for example, engine noise is greater at take off than at cruising speed). Bose's noise-cancellation system has been used on space shuttle flights.

Despite improvements in design and materials, modern cars are also noisy. The combination of wind, engine and tyre noise means that a car travelling at 70 mph can have an interior sound level of 70 dBs or more, making it difficult for anyone wishing to listen to the radio or use a car telephone.

Sennheiser has produced a prototype car telephone which removes the noise frequencies while leaving the useful frequencies intact. The system uses special headphones which have a tiny microphone and speaker built into each piece. Sound entering the headphones is picked up by the microphones and transmitted to a small box of electronics. Here the sound is analysed for certain types of noise and, when it is detected, an "anti-noise" signal is gen-

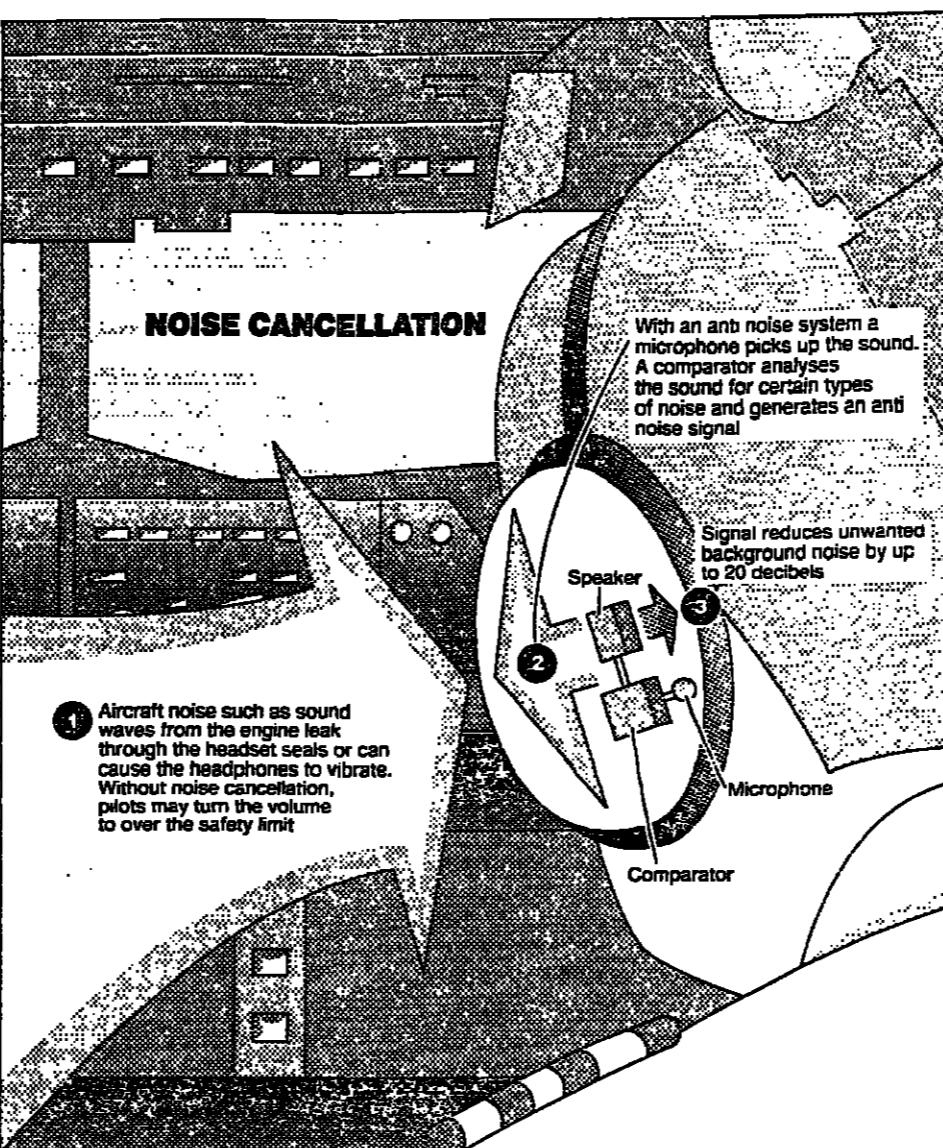
erated. This has the same frequency as the original noise signal, but is in an opposite phase. When the anti-noise signal is mixed with the noise signal, they cancel each other.

The companies claim that their systems can reduce certain types of noise by at least 20 dB — which reduces the loudness by a factor of four.

Sennheiser has also developed a circuit which automatically adjusts the amount of cancellation throughout the flight (for example, engine noise is greater at take off than at cruising speed). Bose's noise-cancellation system has been used on space shuttle flights.

Conventional noise-suppression systems work by reducing the overall level of sound frequencies. The problem is that this blanderous approach is more effective in removing the high frequencies responsible for speech and music than the low and middle frequencies which are the main constituents of aircraft noise.

Noise-cancellation systems are designed to remove the noise frequencies while leaving the useful frequencies intact. The system uses special headphones which have a tiny microphone and speaker built into each piece. Sound entering the headphones is picked up by the microphones and transmitted to a small box of electronics. Here the sound is analysed for certain types of noise and, when it is detected, an "anti-noise" signal is generated.



service vehicles. Lotus has taken car-noise cancellation a step further with its Adaptive Noise Control (ANC) system. This works by placing eight microphones in the car roof to reduce noise, and Sennheiser says wearers would still be able to carry out normal conversations and hear sirens from emergency

nals which are relayed to the car's stereo system. Lotus says that ANC can reduce noise by a factor of five.

Philips is about to announce an in-car system that works over a wider range of frequencies.

Meanwhile, Japanese com-

muters are welcoming two developments, by Sony and

Panasonic, which reduce the amount of sound which leaks out of personal stereo headphones.

Sony's "hiss-free" headphones use special screens to soak up sound, while Panasonic's unit has a special "noise-cut" button which reduces sound leakage by almost half.

being carried out. "We need more research into better and safer access to buildings and, long term, we need to look at areas such as robotics".

He gave warning that, unless the panel's recommendations on increased funding were accepted, "problems just around the corner will hit us full square at the end of the century".

A spokesperson for the SERC said the report was under consideration but: "The outcome of the financial recommendations may not be known for some time".

Nick Nuttal

Tracking down mutant microbes

Scientists in the US and Australia, hot on the trail of drug-resistant malaria micro-organisms have come up with some startling, but contradictory, results

and named *pfmdr-1* and *pfmdr-2*, but there was no proof to connect chloroquine resistance with either of these genes.

This is where the new research comes in. In the red corner, Thomas E. Wellems of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and his colleagues, contend that the *pfmdr* genes have nothing in particular to do with chloroquine resistance — something else is responsible. In the blue corner, David Kemp of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, and his associates think that *mdr*-like genes have an intimate connection with microbial efforts to combat the drug.

"The ensuing problems have been enormous," writes Chris Newbold, of the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of Oxford, commenting in today's *Nature* magazine on the latest research. "both for residents of endemic areas for whom chloroquine has been used as a first line of treatment, and for medical practitioners in the developed world who now find it increasingly difficult to give reliable advice to travellers."

The problem is that little is known about how chloroquine works. Consequently, even less is known about the biochemical changes that mutant malaria cells use to get around it. But a revelation that mutant cells functioned in a similar way to drug-resistant human tumours hinted that chloroquine interferes with a special protein responsible for transporting small molecules out of the malarial cell. This protein flushes drugs from the cell before they can do any damage, and proteins resistant to drug action just keep on flushing. In tumour cells, this protein is encoded by a gene called *mdr*, short for multidrug resistance. Two genes similar to *mdr* were isolated in *Plasmodium falciparum*.

Henry Gee

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Engineering experts call for cash

GOVERNMENT spending on general civil engineering research should be increased by 25 per cent if pressing problems, from reducing the number of deaths in the construction industry to saving the nation's deteriorating infrastructure, are to be tackled, according to a report on the work of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC).

Extra funds are also urgently needed to attract more bright, indigenous civil engineering students into research to reverse the popular trend of staff departments with students from other

countries who eventually leave Britain. An extra £1.5 million should also be made available for environmental civil engineering researchers to study important ecological issues, including water pollution and the control of hazardous substances.

A national testing centre for coastal research, where technical solutions to rising sea levels can be assessed, should also be established as a priority, the report concludes.

These are just some of the findings made by a panel of experts, chaired by Professor Stuart Littlejohn of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Bradford, who have been studying the success of SERC's major civil engineering research programme, launched in 1983. Professor Littlejohn says the £16 million programme has achieved many of its objectives, including improved collaboration

between industry and academics. Nevertheless, there is serious concern about the high number of excellent research proposals which have been rejected because of lack of funds.

SERC spends about £4 million annually on civil engineering research at a time when the construction industry's turnover is an estimated £40,000 million. Between 1983 and 1988, about 25 per cent of all so-called

"alpha" proposals had to be turned down, and last year the figure rose to about 50 per cent. An extra £1 million added to the annual budget, raising the funding level by 25 per cent, would help save some of these promising schemes, the panel believes.

Professor Littlejohn said one of the most alarming findings had been that more than 40 per cent of fatalities in the construction industry occur when maintenance work is

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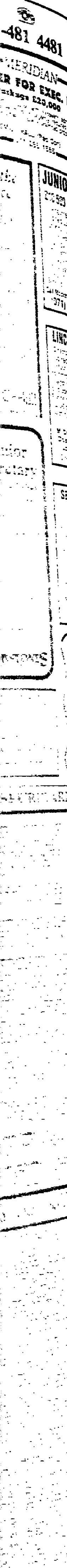
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CAMPAGNA FOR OXFORD

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Rallying to a call from Alma Mater

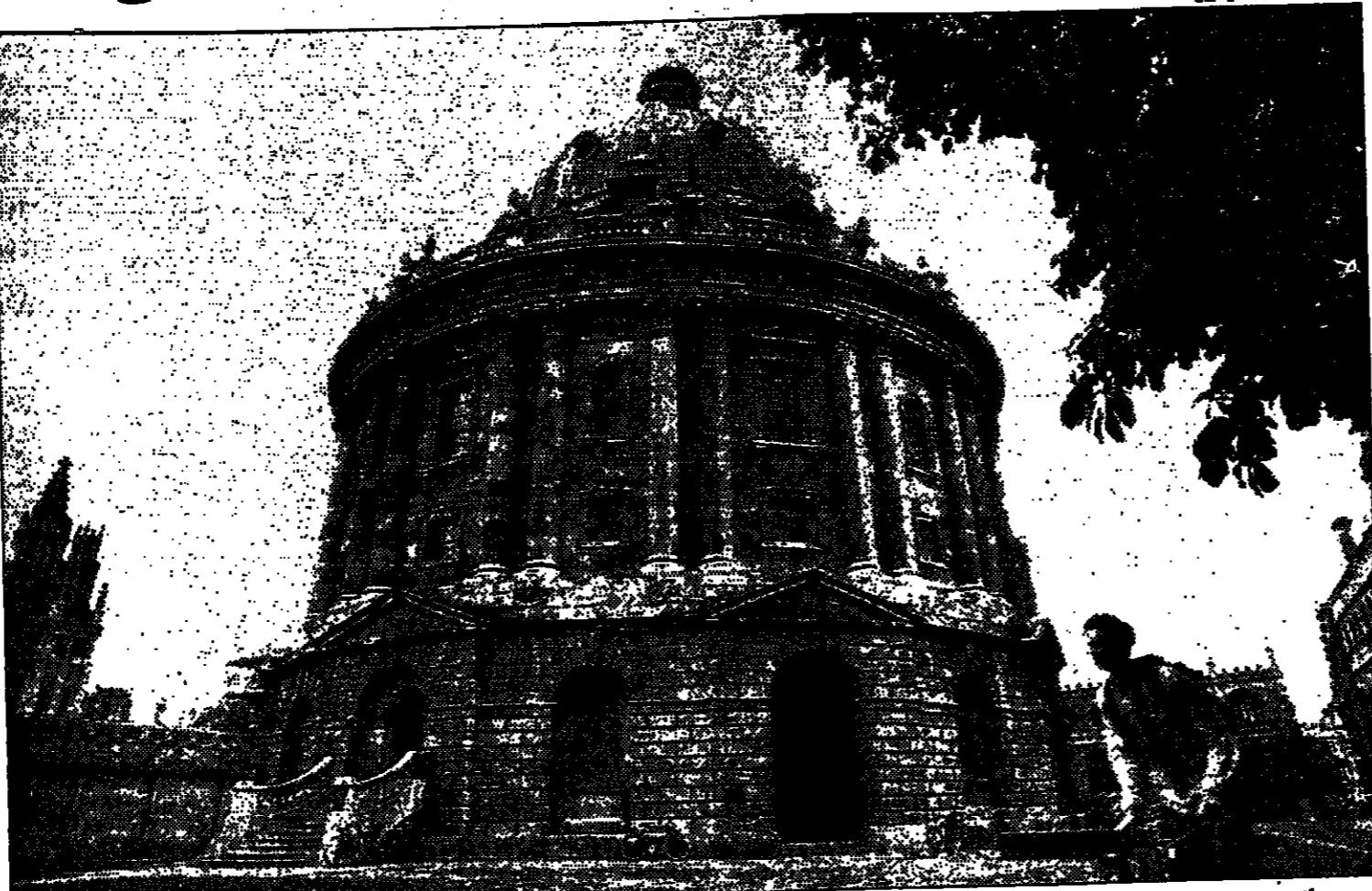
Alumni can now repay the debt of their learning by funding Oxford's future. George Hill reports on the value of gifts such as the Rupert Murdoch Professorship

Nothing happens in Oxford University without it starting an argument; it would be considered falling-off from the academic spirit to let any development pass unquestioned, however impeccable its credentials might appear.

So there was some shaking of well-stuffed heads in 1988, when the university responded to restrictions on its level of grants by taking a leaf out of the Ivy League book and launching a £20 million appeal for funds. Some feared the appeal would contaminate the priorities of pure scholarship, some complained that the cash should be coming from the colleges or the Government and some thought the whole thing simply sounded un-British. But the critics have had to admit that, whatever else may be said about the campaign, it cannot be accused of becoming one of Oxford's legendary flock of lost causes.

This week's announcement that Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation Ltd, is to endow a chair in language and communications, a gift worth £3.1 million over four years, lifts the campaign past its half-way mark for funds raised, after little more than 18 months of the five years it is to run. This brings the total of gifts committed to the appeal above the £10 million mark, and it means that the campaign is already the most successful fund-raising initiative ever taken by a British university.

Mr Murdoch graduated from Worcester College in 1953 after reading politics, philosophy and economics. His gift is intended to help students in the English faculty learn about current developments



Histories make men wise: Oxford hopes its past scholars will do more than reminisce, using their acumen to benefit the next generation

in communications and the media, with a possibility of gaining direct working knowledge with one or more media. The gift involves the creation of a Rupert Murdoch Professorship, three *Times* Lectureships, and a News International Research Fund.

Some gifts given in response to the international campaign will



Rupert Murdoch: Benefactor

secure the continuity of existing teaching posts which had come under threat because of cuts in state funding, such as the chairs in Italian and Classical Greek.

Some will allow institutions such as the Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum to be improved and modernized. Others will extend the university's resources into new areas, in similar ways to the Murdoch professorship. Such areas include the monitoring of environmental change, Chinese studies (with the aid of a £10 million gift from Sir Run Run Shaw, the Hong Kong businessman) and the performing arts (with the visiting professorship of drama and musical theatre funded by the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, with Stephen Sondheim as the first professor).

Former students and other sympathizers have been recruited all round the world to bring donations from the rich and the powerful. They give their time and

exploit their contacts with manifest enthusiasm: "I just think education is the most important investment one can make, the only one that truly endures", says one of them, Sir Martin Jacob, chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Although the main source of funds in cash terms has been gifts from wealthy individuals, businesses and charitable foundations, the appeal has also made a strong attempt to restore contact with as many of the university's 120,000 former students as possible, and to build a relationship with them which emulates that achieved by some American universities. They can raise £100 million a year by persuading up to 70 per cent of their alumni to continue as regular givers.

Sir Richard Southwood, vice-chancellor of the university, says: "Altogether, the old members have given at this point rather more than we expected. One of the things everyone tells you is that former

students have a great loyalty to their own colleges, but are not so aware of the university itself as an institution."

At the outset, the campaign was dogged by assertions that the colleges were inordinately rich and could well afford to help the university through its difficulties. It was pointed out that few of the



Sir Richard: 'Academic plan'

Much have I travell'd . . .

Twenty-two years ago, all undergraduates reading English at Oxford were expected to study Latin for two terms, a great deal of Anglo-Saxon grammar and literature, and absolutely nothing written later than 1900.

Students who had not quite realized this would arrive bursting with theories about the State of the Novel or the poetry of Sylvia Plath, and subsequently go into mild shock on finding that their first task was to learn the Lord's Prayer in Anglo-Saxon: *Faepur ure, pu de eart on heofonum . . .*

On one occasion I impatiently asked an elderly tutor why we did not study writers such as Hector Hugh Munro, known as Saki; and he was gently told that since he had only died in 1916, it was far too soon for posterity to make any judgement.

Despite all that, or because of it, Oxford English was an inspirational course. There were hidden advantages to its antiquarian thoroughness: the compulsory Old and Middle

English studies, leading to Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare and through the subsequent centuries of "moderns" to a culmination with the great Victorians, provided broad understanding and love of the language.

In the Seventies there were overdue reforms: the compulsory Latin vanished, and the syllabus was extended to 1960; a cut-off date later abolished entirely. The baby did not go out with the bathwater: it is still bracingly impossible to get an Oxford English degree without knowing some Anglo-Saxon works and all the great names from Chaucer to Tennyson.

As far as the English School and its 300 students are concerned, the timing could hardly be better: it is an area of scholarship into which they were expanding faster than funding could accommodate. "The new chair will add a great deal," says Professor Douglas Gray, the chairman of the English Faculty Board. "People are increasingly interested in modern English: the language of advertising, of magazines, of films and television programmes."

His deputy, Dr Glenn Black, says: "There are so many areas worth looking at—tabloid style, professional jargons, the whole business of language and gender and attitudes to women. After all, this is a course of English language and literature, and language is changing."

It is not difficult to envisage the reaction of some diehard traditionalists. Given the trouble which tutors at Oxford generally have in getting undergraduates to write their essays instead of watching *Neighbours* and reading *Private Eye* in the junior common room, there is a faint irony in the fact that both pursuits could become as justifiable as any other research.

Dr Black says: "We are a broad church. The course has always given prominence to language work, so why ignore the present?" Professor Grey, while expecting "some harrumphing", defends the validity of studying — say — the jargon of broadcast news in the same course as the language of Chaucer or Shakespeare.



Welcoming "new" English study: Dr Glenn Black and Professor Douglas Gray

Both dons also consider it profitable that News International will give vacation work experience in national media. "It forges a good link,"

Dr Black says, "between the university and the outside world." The Campaign for Oxford statement on the gift talks of "shifting the focus of its major English Faculty to

root it firmly in the study of contemporary Language and Communications", but no one from the English faculty would put it quite so strongly.

"Our focus is a very long one, with roots in 12 other centuries, too," one lecturer said. "There is no way that anyone is going to come to Oxford to spend three years

studying nothing but newspapers."

"What we can offer is a view of today by people who understand many other centuries. That's why it was so clever to put the chair in Oxford, and not somewhere already obsessed with the 20th century."

Libby Purves

Foreign demand for our dongs

THE FLOWERING of democracy in Eastern Europe has placed Oxford University's small team of international relations experts in a state of near siege. As interest among students at both graduate and undergraduate level has surged, so has the demand for the Oxford academics to advise the new regimes and comment in the international media.

As with other departments within the university, the international relations dons are looking to the Campaign for Oxford for the means to meet the demand for their tutorial services which has doubled in a year.

International relations is a comparatively new discipline at Oxford. The Montague Burton chair in the subject was founded at the end of the First World War, to help foster peace in Europe, but it has become a discipline in its own right only in the last two decades.

There are now five academics teaching and researching the subject, led by Professor Adam Roberts, a Fellow of Balliol College who holds the Montague Burton chair.

The impact of *perestroika* on their work has been startling. A survey of undergraduates has shown that numbers seeking to take up the optional course on International Politics Since 1945, will rise from 70 in the current academic year to 150 in October.

Dr Avi Shlaim, Alastair Buchan Reader in International Relations and Fellow of St Antony's College, says: "I have looked at the applications for next year and there really is a lot of interest in Eastern Europe." Oxford is well placed to meet that interest. The team includes Dr Alex Pravda and Professor Archie Brown, two of the leading specialists on the Soviet Union.

"We are not in an ivory tower," said Dr Shlaim. "We are not interested in arcane issues that concern no one. We are very much involved in the practical events unfolding around us."

One of the ironies of Oxford's success is that its fruits are being enjoyed, for the most part, by non-Britons. The chance to broaden the intellectual horizons of British postgraduates studying international relations is being lost.

"Only about 10 per cent of our postgraduate students are British," said Dr Shlaim. "The reason is simply a lack of funds, grants and scholarships to enable them to do it."

The answer to the problem of training more of Britain's finest minds to deal with the changed international situation lies, Dr Shlaim and his colleagues argue, in increased staffing for the sub-faculty of International Relations.

Recently, encouraged by Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, Warden of St Antony's, Deutsche Bank and the National Westminster Bank have endowed five-year fellowships in International Relations.

Dr Shlaim said the appointment of another seven staff was needed. The only hope for the expansion of this increasingly vital area of study lay with the generosity of donors.

Douglas Broom

Scholarship has never been a fixed form, and the new Chair in journalism is not such an out-of-place piece of furniture

Endowing an enduring legacy

THE NEAREST that a poor mortal can get to immortality is to write a great poem or book that echoes down the centuries. As Horace crowed: *Exegi monumentum aere perennius... non omnis moriar.* "I have built a memorial that lasts longer than bronze... I shall not altogether die." Next best shot for immortality is to endow some educational establishment, so that the learning, and questioning, and wit, and all the other peculiar attributes that are defining qualities of *Homo sapiens*, can be handed down to future generations.

Oxford may not be the university that leaps first to mind as the place to establish an innovative Chair in Language and Communications. It did not set up its Honours School of English until 1893, long after University College London and Cambridge, and even then there was outrage from traditionalists, who did not consider English a proper academic study for gentlemen.

When you think of the Oxford English School, the image that comes to mind is of *Beowulf*, abnormal accident in Anglo-Saxon, and questing through *Gawain and the Green Knight* with Professor Tolkien, in the same way that the Oxford School of Modern History started with the Fall of Constantinople.

Your image of Oxford English is not the whole truth. Oxford is proud of its old traditions, and likes to bang on about the longevity of its scholarship. But whenever a

new field of research is opening up, from genetic engineering to post-structuralist linguistics, Oxford is usually up there in the lead with its dons and its money. It has always gone for the best.

A chair of journalism is not such an out-of-place article of furniture at Oxford, if you tot up the celebrities and good writers of contemporary journalism (far more from Oxford than elsewhere), or if you consider the founding fathers of the English communications industry, Addison, Steele, and Sam Johnson, all good Oxford men.

It is fitting that the new Chair is going to be able to work with the greatest lexicographical word-laboratory in the world, *The Oxford English Dictionary*. The importance of Sir James Murray's pioneering work was recognized disgracefully late by his university, but it is now rightly recognized as fugilemnas for the rest of the world in lexicographical studies. There will be exciting interaction and symbiosis between the new Chair and the old dictionary.

The trend of modern scholarship is to recognize that in the house of English there are many mansions, or registers as the jargon calls them. There is not one single line of standard English running from *Beowulf* down to

literary writers of the Home Counties today. English comes in multiform registers, and accents, and styles, all of which are proper objects of study by an Oxford scholar, who is, by definition, interested in everything.

Professor Douglas Gray, chairman of the English Faculty

Board at Oxford (his speciality is medieval literature) says: "All our undergraduates reading English now have to do a compulsory paper on the history and development of the English language down to today.

"They are already having to

write essays on such things as

Modern linguistics since Saussure has been much concerned with registers and diversities, exact senses and puns. The new chair will pioneer studies at the cutting edge of the teeming new Englishes of the communications revolution. Who knows? It might even improve the quality of Oxford journalists, if such a concept is deemed possible.

Philip Howard

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The Bodleian in bytes

From Spenser to space, the five million books in the main library will be listed

On computer, Peter Strafford writes

Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian, would have approved. A single computerized catalogue is to be created of the library's five million or so books, which date back to the 15th century and cover most areas of human imagination, speculation and knowledge, from Aristotle to the latest space technology.

The problem is that the project is vast, and will cost money. At present, the reader has to tackle no less than four separate catalogues, each covering a different period and each using a different system, to track down a book; in most cases it is necessary to come to the Bodleian to consult them.

Once the long list of books is on a single computer system, it will be possible for anyone with an appropriate micro-computer to have access to the list, find an entry and see where to go, among the Bodleian's various branches, to be able to read the book.

For years, this single record of all the Bodleian's books had been a pipe dream, according to Julian Roberts, deputy librarian and Paul Hamlyn Keeper of Printed Books. The first steps were taken in the Sixties, when the university



History on file

acquired a huge, mainframe computer. But the drawback was that it was used by everyone, particularly the scientists, and the libraries only had access to it at night.

A beginning was made, however, in converting the catalogue for use in a computerized system.

The Bodleian's earliest book, a Gutenberg Bible, dates from 1455, and every entry from that date until 1920, a total of some 800,000 works, was put on to tape. The process ceased with the introduction of a new cataloguing system, and for books of the next 68 years, until 1988, the library continues to use those most old-fashioned of materials, paper and cardboard.

The greater part of the period is served by the huge "guard-volume" catalogues, in which every entry is con-

tained on a slip of paper which was stuck on to the page with glue — and often had to be moved to make way for later additions.

Mr Roberts says their task would be eased by, in some cases, making use of book records already put into circulation by other libraries, but even so it will be a long job.

For a short time, from early 1987 to August 1988, there was a switch to an interim catalogue in which entries were made on cards. Finally, in 1988, the Bodleian was able to set up a computerized system, and since then new entries have been made directly on to that. What the library wants to do now, therefore, is to bridge the gap between 1920 and 1988

by computerizing the listing of books from those years, so that readers no longer have to consult the old guard-volumes.

It will be quite an operation, covering more than two million books, and cannot be done with the library's existing resources. One estimate is that if 30 people, split up into three teams of 10 each, are given the job, it will take them between 12 and 15 years.

The Bodleian has already received promises of some funds. The Pearson group has promised £1 million for the creation of a new post, that of a New Media Librarian. This position will be filled by someone with experience in computer systems and the various facilities they make possible — such as compact discs, electronic publishing and access to databases — so that the Bodleian can take advantage of them.

There has also been a promise of £1 million from Paul Hamlyn, the publisher. This money will be distributed among a number of specific tasks, all designed to improve the functioning of the library.

The gift will pay for conversion of the interim catalogue for the 1987-88 period so that it can be used in the new computerized system; and it will provide for temporary posts in, for instance, the Indian Institute, the Law Li-



A daunting task: Julian Roberts, the deputy librarian on the Old Bodleian, estimates the cataloguing will take years

brary and the Publications Department.

This leaves the conversion of the catalogue for 1920-87, now contained in the heavy old guard-volumes, still to be paid for. This is estimated to cost at least £3.5 million, and the Bodleian is hoping that the funds will be forthcoming.

In many ways the Bodleian is Oxford's heart. Even before Sir Thomas Bodley opened his library in 1602 there had been a library on the same site, built with funds provided by Thomas Cobham, Bishop of Worcester, in 1320 and later

dispersed. One of the early benefactors was Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, and Duke Humphrey's Library, an elegant beamed room that was completed in 1488, is still a source of pride.

Over the centuries the library has expanded greatly. It has taken over most of the Schools Quadrangle, built in the 17th century, in which it originally occupied only one floor, followed by such landmarks as the Radcliffe Camera and the Clarendon Building. The New Bodleian was completed in 1939, and other

branches are dotted around Oxford. be included in a single system. A start has already been made on this with the establishment of the Oxford Library System. This system now includes 24 libraries, many of them belonging to colleges, as well as the Bodleian.

For the moment, the only part of the Bodleian's holdings available is the computerized section which began in 1988. But the aim is that every book in the library, the second largest in England after the British Library, should eventually be easily accessible through listing in the system.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ONE LEADING LIGHT TO ANOTHER

A merger of law interests

Future needs are being met by links between the law schools and firms

Simmons and Simmons's commitment is for five years. The firm has a nameplate in books it buys and the Bodleian has a guarantee of funds.

Firms and the law faculty both benefit. The Travers Smith Braithwaite lectureship, awarded to Fidelis Oditala, is in corporate finance law. Robert Harman, one of the partners, explains that the firm wanted the lectureship to be in the field in which it works.

Peter Holland, of Allen and Overy, which is also funding a chair at Durham University, says: "There's been very little contact between universities and firms of solicitors." The firm has created a charitable foundation to pay for the long-term funding of the chairs.

"We hope there will be a two-way flow of information, with the professor telling us what he finds relevant while we pass on where we think an area of law needs some cautious handling."

Mr Holland admits the attractions of funding a chair in commercial law are clearly greater than some other branches of the discipline. "I don't think we would have thought it appropriate to set up a chair in Roman or medieval law." That may not always be the case. Although Professor Roy Goode, who specializes in commercial law, is the first holder of the Norton Rose chair, it was open to any field of law. Tony Kay, of Norton Rose, says: "We set up the chair in response to a request for help and there were no stipulations attached."

There are fears that such ventures may start to determine course content. John Ekelazar, chairman of the Law Faculty Board at Oxford, is aware of the dangers, but argues that outside funding is far from being a problem. The benefits were not simply financial. "It is also a way of improving communication between us and the legal profession and helping us maintain contacts between the sort of work we do and what goes on in private practice. It gives a wider dimension."

Frances Gibb



Conflict or co-operation? outside funding is increasing



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Chinese gifts hold much treasure

Oxford welcomed its first Chinese researcher almost 300 years ago, in the 1690s, when a scholar arrived from the East to discuss maps. Since then the university has become much more knowledgeable about the Chinese world, and it is understandably proud of its latest coup — the decision of Sir Run Run Shaw, the millionaire philanthropist from Hong Kong, to endow an institute for modern Chinese studies.

The £10 million benefac-

tion, announced in March, is the largest of its kind so far given to Oxford. It will finance the Run Run Shaw Institute for Chinese Studies and, by concentrating on contemporary aspects of the Chinese world, such as politics, economics, finance, trade and sociology, will greatly broaden the range of courses, seminars and other activities which the university can offer.

Sir Richard Southwood, the vice-chancellor, talks enthusiastically of the new institute being an "intellectual entrepot for the Chinese world and

western Europe". One of the main objectives is to attract Chinese students and academics, and he draws a parallel with the Rhodes scholarships, which created a link between Britain, the United States and the Commonwealth.

"For us in the West, the East is inscrutable. But this will enable the two to come to-

FRANK SPOONER

gether, and help the West to understand what is going on in the East."

Sir Richard also makes the point, however, that Oxford will not be starting from scratch, and that it would not have made sense to have set up an institute of this sort if the university had not already acquired expertise in Chinese studies. There has been a professor of Chinese at Oxford since 1860, and there has long been teaching of Chinese language and culture. In recent years there has been increasing activity in modern Chinese studies.

Economists from mainland China have recently been coming to Oxford for training in the virtues of a mixed economy — and are still coming in spite of the change of emphasis in Peking. St Antony's and Wolfson Colleges have set up their own Chinese Studies Centre.

But the establishment of the Run Run Shaw Institute will give a new dimension to teaching and research in Chinese affairs. Oxford will continue to teach and study China's languages, its culture

and its past. But it will also acknowledge the importance of the present by giving far greater emphasis to modern topics.

The university has already done this for Japan, with the opening in 1981 of the Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies. Sir Richard makes it clear that, with the growing importance of the Pacific Rim countries generally, he wants to take the process further. Thought has been given to having a similar institute for Korean affairs. He also wants to bring in the countries of South-East Asia, where there are many Oxford alumni.

He went to Hong Kong in February to meet Sir Run Run, and discuss the plans for the new institute. Sir Richard found him to be a "lively and interesting man", already much active in funding university studies, both in mainland China and in Hong Kong, where he has set up Shaw College. Sir Run Run was particularly interested in making sure that the new institute would have something to offer undergraduates and in making it a meeting place for East and West.

The institute will not be solely concerned with developments in mainland China, but will also study the Chinese world generally, including Hong Kong, Taiwan,

and Singapore. For undergraduates, it will offer a variety of optional subjects in modern Chinese topics, and these will be available to those who may not have Chinese as their main subject.

The next step is to start work on a building, and a brief will be ready for architects soon. It has been decided that the new institute will be attached to Wolfson College, and that visiting fellows will be accommodated in the college. The institute will be headed by a professor, supported by two other permanent members of staff.

Professor Gien Duddridge, who has been Professor of Chinese at Oxford since the beginning of the current academic year — having previously been Professor of Chinese at Cambridge — is equally enthusiastic about the project, and the prospects it offers.

He would not be drawn, however, on where China was heading today, and whether he saw this huge country, containing a quarter of the human race, fulfilling its potential.

China, he said, was an especially difficult country to predict. The upheavals it has undergone this century had been largely unforeseen, and it was difficult to know what the future held.



Contemporary China: Sir Run Run's institute will broaden Chinese study at Oxford

BRITISH industry is dragging its feet when it comes to backing the fundamental research work being carried out by Oxford's science departments.

While British companies opt to pursue short-term gain, overseas companies, particularly American corporations, are investing millions of pounds in research facilities that should one day provide the "quantum leap" discovery that unlocks the door to long-term profits.

The figures tell their own story. Of the £47.5 million Oxford received from outside bodies last year for research projects, just £2.5 million — 5 per cent — came from British companies. That contribution was dwarfed by the £10.5 million made by overseas companies, an amount not far behind the £17 million contributed by all five of Britain's nationally funded research councils.

Given these figures, it should come as little surprise that the

British firms slow to make a mark in science

We are benefitting from foreign foresight, but what of local support?

university seriously considered applying for a Queen's Award last year, not for technological achievement as might be expected and as its computer department last month won, but for exports.

The pioneer in this field of external funding is Professor Raymond Dwek, whose new Institute of Glycobiology is being paid for by Monsanto, the American chemicals giant. Monsanto last year donated £2.9 million towards the cost of the new laboratory, with the university contributing £800,000 and the best undeveloped site left in the university's science area.

But this was no spontaneous gesture by Monsanto. Professor Dwek's link with the company goes back to 1983. In that year he was invited to inspect some new

products that Advent, a British venture capital group heavily backed by Monsanto, was considering.

When Advent and Monsanto executives paid a return visit to Professor Dwek's laboratory in the biochemistry department, they liked what they saw of his work into body sugars.

In particular, they were interested in his department's work into the relationship between abnormalities in the sugar elements of glyco-proteins and a range of serious diseases.

To his surprise Monsanto proposed a £2 million funding package over four years, a package that was quickly upgraded as the cost

and scope of the department's work grew. Biotechnology is an expensive business, Professor Dwek says. "Oxford brains would not have been enough. We needed to have Monsanto finance."

The relationship remains the model of how industry and a university science department can work. Oxford retains the intellectual rights over its discoveries, while Monsanto has the right to exploit these rights, while paying the university a royalty.

Both the university and Monsanto have equity stakes in a new company, Oxford Glyco-systems, set up to exploit the technology the department has developed. Some 40 people are

already employed at its Abingdon site. Never before had the university become a shareholder in a company commercially using the results of ongoing research.

The Monsanto tie-up may now provide a model for others, but Professor Dwek recalls that at the beginning the university was so naive Monsanto almost had to write both sides of the contract, to avoid being accused of exploitation. Oxford has learned quickly. Its biggest success has been the attracting of the American drug giant, the Squibb Corporation, now Bristol-Myers Squibb. Squibb has donated £20 million to the Department of Pharmacology, half of which is being spent on

building a new department for Professor David Smith.

Once again it has taken an American company to recognize that a new generation of drugs will be dependent on breakthroughs made in pure scientific research.

Professor Smith's research is looking at the way chemicals interact with the central nervous system, in particular how certain proteins operate as chemically receptive sites. For the moment the work is research at it's purest. But one day it could provide a cure for the untreatable Alzheimer's disease.

Three years on, with the roof about to go on his brand new department, Professor Smith's team has wasted little time and already has six patents pending.

Professor Smith is still hopeful

that British industry will wake up to the opportunities it is missing.

"In British universities there is a fantastic amount of research that is worth support."

Matthew Bond



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RUGBY UNION

Wales advised not to underestimate ambitious Namibia

From John Donaldson, Windhoek

WALES leave today for their first visit to southern Africa for 26 years, though on this tour it is not the Springboks they will encounter but Namibia, formerly South-West Africa, the latest entry to the South-West.

Touring sides will remember rugby there for hard playing surfaces, fanatical supporters, and their opponents, the "Biltongboers". Visitors to Windhoek may have emerged victorious, but not by much: the 1955 British Isles team won 9-0, and their 1962 successors, 14-6. Willie John McBride's unbeaten 1974 Lions won only 23-16, while the 1961 Australians drew 14-14, and the 1975 French team were held 13-13.

South-West Africa became the fifteenth union to join the South African Rugby Board's (SARF) Currie Cup competition in 1954, and competed in probably the world's most demanding rugby arena until last year. Their apoee came in 1988, when they lost only 12-9 to Transvaal in the semi-finals.

It was a remarkable achievement that a union with

so few senior players (around 1,200), should finish third behind Western Province and Northern Transvaal, the two mainstays of South African rugby. Last year, however, was a disappointment: the South-West could finish only sixth.

When independence was set in motion, the South-West African Rugby Union (SWARU) hoped that the newly-installed government would allow it a passing-out season with the former colonial power.

But the democratically-elected South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) government, in line with its policy of national reconciliation, stipulated that all sporting links with South Africa would be severed, and that only one controlling body would receive official sanction in each sporting code.

This forced SWARU and the Namibian Rugby Union, a breakaway group representing the majority of non-white players, to start serious negotiations on unification.

Had they proved produc-

tive, Namibia might have had a golden opportunity to qual-

Moore back in favour

LINDSAY Renwick, the London Scottish wing, is out of the Scotland party to tour New Zealand later this month and is replaced by the Edinburgh Academical, Alex Moore (Alan Lovrini writes). Renwick, aged 29, who was his only cap against Romania in December, has withdrawn from the Scottish party following complications with the birth of his third child.

ATHLETICS

Elliott returns to the track

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

A SUB four-minute mile for charity apart, Peter Elliott to night runs his first race since setting a world indoor 1,500 metres record 11 weeks ago. He competes over 800 metres in Santander, Spain, before getting down to the serious business, on Sunday, of putting his name to be.

Elliott was always the after-thought on the 1980s' roll call of the British middle-distance greats: Coe, Cram, Ovett and Elliott. But Elliott has begun the 1990s with a Commonwealth gold at 1,500 metres, a world indoor record of 3min 34.21sec

and the extension of his unbeaten sequence to 15 races indoors, outdoors and at cross country.

He hopes to open his season with a quick 800 metres tonight, in around 1min 45sec, then displace Coe as the Yorkshire championship record-holder for 1,500 metres by beating the 3min 39.1sec that Coe ran midway between his 1980 and 1984 Olympic gold medals at the distance.

"I'm in good shape and happy with my form," Elliott, aged 27, said. "I've trained hard for the past six weeks and have not

been as fit as this in May for a long time. Seb always used to run the Yorkshire championships when he was up here and I plan to do the same."

Elliott's main aim for the season is to win the European championship 1,500 metres in Split, a feat that eluded Coe in his one attempt four years ago. But Coe is a former holder of the world 1,500 metres and mile records and, after setting his world indoor record in Seville, Elliott said that he was "going to attempt 1,500 metres and mile runs at Goodwood next Wednesday."

Similarly, Eddery, who rode

Digression in a gallop on

Lingfield racecourse on Monday, said: "Digression moved well and felt super."

Grant Pritchard-Gordon, Abdulla's racing manager, split out the situation after Sanglamore had given Roger Charlton, Jeremy Tree's successor at Beckhampton, his most im-

TABLE TENNIS

Misgivings as Chen makes England debut

From Richard Eaton

Aomori, Japan

CHEN Xinhui is to make his long-awaited and lengthy-dated debut for England in the inaugural TSP World Team Cup against Chinese-Taipei here today. Accompanying me as relief will come from the captain, Donald Parker, and all those in the English Table Tennis Association who fought hard for the inclusion of the China-born, Yorkshire-based former World Cup winner.

Misgivings remain among some others notably the ETTA chairman, John Prean, and the chief executive, Ted Wallington, both of whom reckon that Chen may make the game less and not more marketable. Despite that, Chen has achieved publicity more frequently than any other player of the last quarter of a century, since his marriage to a local woman, Jeanette Wood, in December. The pressure on him in recent weeks — with the political intrigue and repeated visa problems as well as all the attention — has been considerable.

It might therefore be unwise to expect immediate heroics, although Chen's inclusion could ensure that England qualify for the knockout quarter-final stage, which moves to Osaka on Monday. He has hardly had time for proper practice

Alternatives required to the penalty shoot-out

From Mr R. J. H. Randall

Sir, Penalty shoot-outs are clearly an unpopular and unsatisfactory means of determining the outcome of any football match, whilst endless replays are administratively unacceptable and frankly boring.

Since the outcome of most matches is decided on a team's effectiveness (or lack of it) in the set-pieces, I propose that a set-piece shoot-out would be the fairest and certainly the most entertaining form of tie-break.

Roddy Forsyth (May 14) argues that penalties are unrepresentative of the team nature of football. Set-pieces on the other hand contain all the ingredients of entertaining football — innovation, skill, courage, anticipation, man-to-man marking.

Instead of merely penalties deciding the outcome of a tied match, a combination of set-pieces consisting of, say, one penalty; two corners (one from each side of the goal); one indirect free kick and one direct (of the penalty area) should be used to break the tie.

Teams would alternate their kicks whilst the captains would exercise their leadership and cunning by selecting in which order they wished to take each set-piece. The ball would be deemed "dead" once it was out of play/safely in the goalkeeper's hands/in the back of the net/across the halfway line.

SPORTS LETTERS

Punishment will not work

From Mr B. A. Forkin

Sir, The correspondence of Messrs Hick and Waterworth (May 10) reflects all the customary knee-jerk reaction to the problem of football violence.

Relegated Leeds, the third division club Newcastle in their stead! Mr Hick makes his best point as a throwaway — that the hooligans do not attend to the match.

I have supported Leeds United these 25 years, often attending those games at which violence has occurred: I abhor these displays as strongly as your correspondents, yet I entirely fail to see how punishing the club, which do everything in their power to discourage their hooligan element, will in any way alleviate the problem.

The simple fact is that these people care nothing for football and will continue their anti-social antics, whatever Leeds United do. If Leeds were expelled from the League, Elland Road turned into an adventure playground and Vinny Jones made to join the Salvation Army, the thugs would simply turn their attention towards Sheffield Wednesday or United, and carry on exactly as before.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. GREAVES,
12 Southway,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Richard Marsh
Sir, Where the FA Cup Final ends in a draw, even after extra time, would not the most sensible, fairest and happier solution be to declare both teams joint winners of the trophy? This would avoid both the farce of penalties and the anti-climax of a replay which, among other things, offends against the sensibilities of cricket lovers given to wondering whether the football season will ever come to an end.

I fail to see the logic in your argument that the solution lies in making the goals bigger, especially in light of the fact this year's final ended in a high-scoring 3-2 draw.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MARSH,
3 Hobury Street, SW10.

From Mr C. E. Lockwood
Sir, Almost anything would be better than the penalty shoot-out system for extracting winners and losers from a drawn football match.

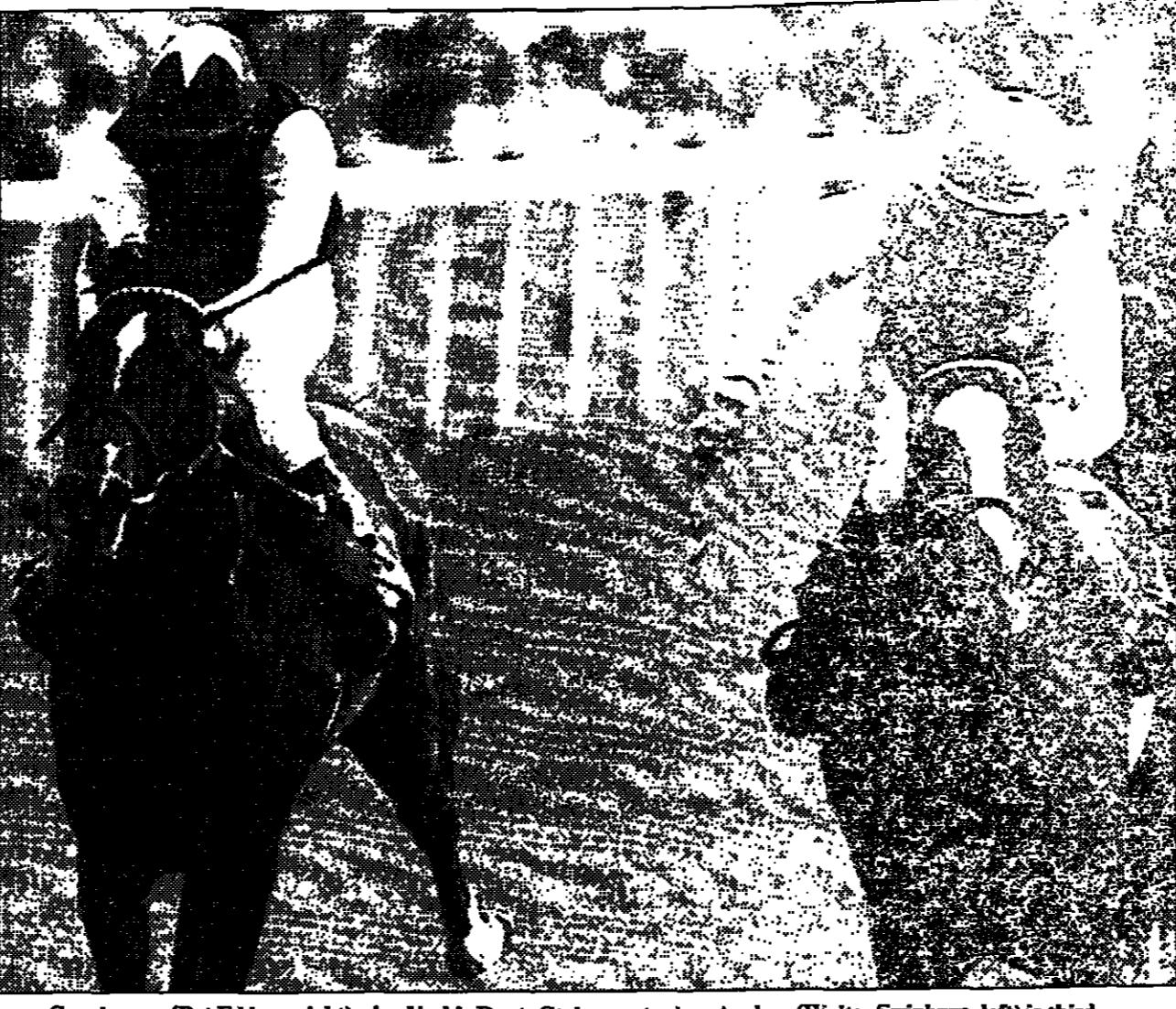
The winners should be the side that committed fewer fouls. This takes into account the full 90 or 120 minutes played; it has a strong element of justice; it might lead to an increase in skill, as skilful players would be less likely to be hacked down.

Yours faithfully,
C. E. LOCKWOOD,
72 Dewsall Road,
West Green,
Crawley, West Sussex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046

Anshan's Derby aspirations evaporate in Dante Stakes at York

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Sanglamore (Pat Eddery, right) wins York's Dante Stakes yesterday. Anshan (Walter Swinburn, left) is third.

Digression's reappearance the key to confused Epsom scene

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

THE final shape of the Derby market, and probably the destination of our greatest race, will now depend on how Digression runs in next Wednesday's Predominant Stakes at Goodwood.

Indeed, Pat Eddery confirmed as much after he had won the William Hill Dante Stakes on Sanglamore in the green, pink and white colours of Digression's owner, Khaled Abdulla.

"There's no question that Digression is the one," Eddery said. "He's got the speed and the stamina as well. I liked him from the start."

Although no positive clues from yesterday's trial, Digression had halfed in price from 16-1 in the space of three days, a reduction out of all proportion to the money being put into the race.

Sanglamore's dogged victory was gained entirely through stamina, the Sharpen Up colt looking to be in trouble early in the straight and only mastering Karina Bay, the runner-up, in this afternoon's Glasgow Stakes, and Razeen, who is due to take on Digression at Goodwood.

"He simply didn't stay," the trainer said. "I never seriously thought of him as a Derby horse. We will probably now go for the Grand Prix de Paris over 1½ miles."

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Similarly, Eddery, who rode Digression in a gallop on Lingfield racecourse on Monday, said: "Digression moved well and felt super."

Grant Pritchard-Gordon, Abdulla's racing manager, split out the situation after Sanglamore had given Roger Charlton, Jeremy Tree's successor at Beckhampton, his most im-

portant success in the Knave of Hearts' group two event. "Even if Digression wins well at Goodwood, we could still have another runner at Epsom, either Sanglamore or Quest For Fame," he said.

The disappointment of yesterday's race was the running of Anshan, the uneasy even-money favourite. John Gosden's 200 Guineas third palpably failed to last home the one-mile 2½-furlong journey, eventually beaten a total of three lengths.

"He simply didn't stay," the trainer said. "I never seriously thought of him as a Derby horse. We will probably now go for the Grand Prix de Paris over 1½ miles."

Fiddling, the 9-4 favourite, disappointed when finishing last behind Luceedo in the Owners Sprint. Gavin Husband lost his right to claim the 7lb allowance when gaining his fifth victory of the season on John Squearing's remarkable grey six-year-old.

Michael Stoute, without a runner in the big race, had an afternoon of mixed fortunes. The reigning champion trainer won the BPR Middleton Stakes when Hellenic proved far too strong for Ballet Classique, but suffered a disappointment when Zarco slipped three furlongs out of the race.

Zarco, having been placed behind the Mark Topham-trained and Ray Cochrane-

ridden Appelania in the Mail On Sunday Three-Year-Old Handicap.

Stoute did, however, have the last laugh when Selah forced a dead-heat with Home Truth in the Wilkinson Memorial Stakes to give him a double.

In the opening six-furlong Dalton Stakes for two-year-olds, Dean McKeown rode Ayr Clasic to a decisive three-quarters-of-a-length defeat of Foursight.

"We'll probably go for a listed race next," said John Wilson, the Ayr trainer. "He's one of the fastest two-year-olds I've trained. He beat Diet by four lengths at level weights in a gallop last week."

Fiddling, the 9-4 favourite, disappointed when finishing last behind Luceedo in the Owners Sprint. Gavin Husband lost his right to claim the 7lb allowance when gaining his fifth victory of the season on John Squearing's remarkable grey six-year-old.

"I don't know what to put his improvement down to," said the trainer. "He's just learnt to move his feet a bit faster."

David Elsworth intends running Thethingaboutus in the group one Prix du Cadran over 6½ miles at Longchamp on Sunday. Richard Holden plans to run Ruling, the mount of John Williams.

Walwyn to retire at end of season

By Michael Seely

FULKE Walwyn, the most prolific trainer of big-race National Hunt winners over the past 50 years, yesterday confirmed his intention to retire at the end of the season.

Walwyn's wife, Cath, will apply for a licence to continue to run Saxon House Stables in Lambourn, from where Walwyn has trained for some 45 years.

Among the outstanding trainers of the post-war era, only Vincent O'Brien, with his total of 10 winners of the Grand National, Cheltenham Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle in a comparatively short period, can be considered Walwyn's peer.

If Walwyn, aged 79, has a particular genius, it is his uncaring selection of the right horse for the right race. Together with Fred Winter, Walwyn is the only man to have ridden and trained a Grand National winner, and his record of four Gold Cups and two Champion Hurdles since 1945 has not been beaten.

But it is in those great staying handicaps, the Hennessy Coognac Gold Cup and the Whitbread Gold Cup, that Walwyn stands alone. He has won both on seven occasions. The lion-hearted bay, Mandarin, won the first running of the Hennessy in 1957, and also collected a Whitbread as well as a Gold Cup and a King George VI Chase.

The memory of Winter and Mandarin on a sweltering June afternoon in 1962, winning the Grand Steeplechase de Paris after the horse had lost its bridle at the first fence, will live forever with those who saw it.

The quick-jumping Diamond Edge won Hennessy and two Whitbreads, and in Sandown's great amphitheatre in 1984, Diamond Edge looked sure to become the only horse ever to win the spectacular three times.

But in a memorable finish, he finished an honourable third, close behind the Queen Mother's Special Cargo, also trained by Walwyn, and Lettoch.

Walwyn's judgement has always demanded the greatest respect. When he pronounced "this one will go well", the punters listened and the bookmakers trembled. His retirement is the end of a golden era.

Career milestones

Riding career: Won the 1929 Grand National on Leycesterside; three times champion jockey.

First winner as trainer: Poor Duke at Buckstealgh, August 26, 1938.

Big races won: Cheltenham Gold Cup (four times), Champion Hurdle (twice), Hennessy Gold Cup (twice), Whitbread Gold Cup (seven times), King George VI Chase (six times), Grand National, Scottish Grand National, Grand Steeplechase de Paris, Grand Prix de Paris, Grand Military Gold Cup (eight times).

Best horses trained: Arizo, Charlie Pommery, Diamond Edge, Lettoch, Mandarin, Secret Service, Special Cargo, Taxidermia, Team Spirit, The Dider, Winkie.

First winner for the Queen Mother: Game Changer at Newbury 1973.

Winning record: 1,000 winners, 2,000 placings, 1,000 firsts for prizemoney won, four in number of races won. Winners trained: 2,184.

Caring for the customers

From Mrs L. Fleming
Sir, I read Mr Christopher Drew's letter (May 10) about MCC's supposed lack of concern for the paying customer with astonishment.

I too, am a member at the match he describes and had a similar experience when trying to shelter from the rain. Instead of feeling aggrieved at being barred from the roped-off area of the Mound Stand, I made further inquiries as to why the area in question was out of bounds.

In accordance with the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, improvements were being carried out at the back of the Mound Stand (for the safety of the same public the MCC don't care about) and the council only allowed the stand to be opened at all if that particular section was roped off.

There was an area in the covered Grandstand that was available should it rain, which is where Mr Drew and myself would have had to spend the whole day had the council insisted on closing down the entire Mound Stand, but as the pitch in use for the match was on the Mound Stand side of the ground

Waiwya
to retire
at end
of season

Braashee poised to confirm merit of decisive Chester win

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

TWELVE months ago, Mountkin Kingdom became the first horse to win the Ormonde Stakes at Chester and the Yorkshire Cup at York in the same season. Now, Braashee is napped to complete that same rare double following his impressive win on the Roodey last Thursday.

At Chester, Braashee, trained by Alec Stewart, left Michelozzo, last season's St Leger winner, Albadr and Top Class flat-footed in the straight. With only a 2lb pull in the weights, Top Class should not be capable of reversing that form, while Albadr appears to have little chance as he meets Braashee on the same terms.

A line through Michelozzo also gives Braashee the beating of last year's Ebor winner, Sepicore, who was beaten eight lengths in second in the St Leger.

The fact that Nobel Savage finished even further behind Michelozzo in the March Stakes at Goodwood will not be lost on those who pin their faith on the form book, although Nobel Savage looked an improved horse when he gave Travelling Light, the subsequent Chester Cup winner, 24lb and a decisive beating at Newmarket last month. On that occasion Nobel Savage was given a most enterprising ride by Ray Cochrane, who made all the running and succeeded in giving his opponents the slip.

But judged on the Chester race he will find it harder over a trip as short as six furlongs. Great Commotion has shown that he possesses the requisite speed by being placed in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, the Hungerford Stakes and the Goodwood Mile, in addition to winning the seven-furlongs Beeswing Stakes at Newcastle.

His most dangerous rival today could be Awhai, who takes a step up in class after impressing when winning a handicap under 10 stone at Newmarket a fortnight ago.

Barry Hills, who has saddled the winner of the Chester Of York Stakes five times already, relies on Polar Bird,



Alec Stewart: trainer of Braashee (York, 3.40)

getting away from Braashee, whose owner, Sheikh Maktoum Al-Maktoum, can derive further satisfaction from winning the Duke Of York Stakes, the other group race on the programme, with Great Commotion.

Although he has never raced over a trip as short as six furlongs when he made all the running at Newbury first time out, he never looked like being caught, and I immediately resolved to follow him the next time he ran. This is the occasion.

The way that Recquerel won at Salisbury eight days ago hinted that he would be good value for the 5lb penalty in the Hambleton Limited Handicap, the race his connections won last year with True Panache.

Finally, Michael Stoute and Walter Swinburne are hopeful of pulling off a first and last race double with Sasaki (2.00) and Snowy Owl (5.15).

Blinkered first time

Going: good 4.10 En Vain.

7.0 BRENT LEISURE HANDICAP HURDLE (22.180; 3m 11) (12)

1 2000 DUNIHEN 27 (IWD) R Shewring 8-2-0 - A 2 Grade (7)
2 1995 RED PADDOL 8 (F,D,F) J Hartson 7-11-2, 8-2 McCourt
3 1942 STORMY CREEK 10 (F,D,F) K Bailey 10-10-2 A Tony (3)
4 2-21 BAND CASTLE 7 (F,D,F) M Ryan 8-10-12 (5m 11)
5 1913 PALE LUCK 21 (F) Jones 7-10-9 M Kenne
6 644 BILLIES-EES 8 (F,D,F) R Farmer 5-10-4 R Huxley
7 1905 BEEFY 20 (F,D,F) G Smith 8-10-12 M Parnell
8 1995 SPEEDY BOY 7 (D,F) S Exports 8-10-0 M Parnell
9 1995 MAID MARINE 5 (F) Miss G Ross 8-10-0
10 2000 MORTON HILL 7 (D,F) R Bennett 8-10-0 L Waddington
11 1992 CRICK REACTION 21 (F,C,F) M Heath 7-10-7 D Gutteridge
12 1992 FIREWORKS 10 (F,D,F) B Syford 7-10-4 G Morris
13 2002 RED RUDOLPH 6-2 Sand Castle 6-1 Rane Luck, 8-1 Droyer
14 10-11 STONEY CREEK 10-12 Speedy Boy, 14-1 others.
15 1995 BRAHMA 10 (F,D,F) G Morris

BETTING: 5-1 Swoosh, 6-1 Sheet Procedy, 8-1, 10-1, 12-1, 14-1 others.

1995: GREENSMITH 9-0 Pat Eddery (7-1) G Hartson 15 ran

7.0 BARNHAM HANDICAP CHASE (22.167; 2m 4f) (6)

1 1994 AIRPORT 19 (CD,F) F Ryan 11-12-0 J Ryan (6)
2 2001 PALACE YARD 7 (CD,F) K Wigmore 8-1-11-1 J Davies (2)
3 1995 WILD RUMBLE 5 (F,D,F) T Bell 7-11-2, 8-2 McCourt
4 1995 CHELSEA MAN 8 (F,D,F) G Smith 8-10-0 M Kenne
5 1995 BILLY-EES 9 (F,D,F) J Bridger 11-10-2 D Gutteridge
6 1995 BATTY 29 (F) N Wheeler 9-10-0 (Lancashire) (2)
7 1993 PRINCE CARLTON 22 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Somerville
8 0000 THE FRUIT 7 (D,F) J Lodge 11-10-2 Ms N Ledger
9 11-8 Abory 7-2 Palco Yard, 5-1 Bill Ardoy, 8-1 Prince Carson, 10-1 Chelsea Man, 12-1 Maia 14-1 others.
10 1995 BILLY BOY 10 (F,D,F) G Morris

BETTING: 5-1 Swoosh, 6-1 Sheet Procedy, 8-1, 10-1, 12-1, 14-1 others.

1995: GREENSMITH 9-0 Pat Eddery (7-1) G Hartson 15 ran

7.0 BARHAM STAKES (22.167; 2m 4f) (6)

1 1994 AIRPORT 19 (CD,F) F Ryan 11-12-0 J Ryan (6)
2 2001 PALACE YARD 7 (CD,F) K Wigmore 8-1-11-1 J Davies (2)
3 1995 WILD RUMBLE 5 (F,D,F) T Bell 7-11-2, 8-2 McCourt
4 1995 CHELSEA MAN 8 (F,D,F) G Smith 8-10-0 M Kenne
5 1995 BILLY-EES 9 (F,D,F) J Bridger 11-10-2 D Gutteridge
6 1995 BATTY 29 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Somerville
7 1993 PRINCE CARLTON 22 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Somerville
8 0000 THE FRUIT 7 (D,F) J Lodge 11-10-2 Ms N Ledger
9 11-8 Abory 7-2 Palco Yard, 5-1 Bill Ardoy, 8-1 Prince Carson, 10-1 Chelsea Man, 12-1 Maia 14-1 others.
10 1995 BILLY BOY 10 (F,D,F) G Morris

BETTING: 5-1 Swoosh, 6-1 Sheet Procedy, 8-1, 10-1, 12-1, 14-1 others.

1995: GREENSMITH 9-0 Pat Eddery (7-1) G Hartson 15 ran

8.0 GEOFFREY LAWFIELD MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 21.562; 3m) (6)

1 001 SUMMERS 61 (F,D,F) Miss A Embidis 11-12-0 Miss A Embidis (7)

2 002 TRUE BLOOM 15 (F,D,F) G Terry 11-12-0 J Terry (7)

3 003 STAG'S PURSE 12 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

4 004 TOP HOPPSTER 22 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

5 005 BILLY BOY 10 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

6 006 SUMMERSON 5-4 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

7 007 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

8 008 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

9 009 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

10 010 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

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61 061 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

62 062 SUMMERS 6-1 (F,D,F) Mrs J Blatchford 10-10-4 Mrs J Blatchford

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CRICKET

A double record for Warwickshire after Reeve century

By Jack Bailey

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 337 runs behind Warwickshire

ALL that talk about the mundane nature of Tuesday's play had its come-uppance yesterday. First, some cricket news: Warwickshire scored their highest total against Northamptonshire when they passed the 456 for five scored in 1951; Reeve's 202 (his second hundred came from only 81 balls) was the highest score made by a Warwickshire batsman in this fixture and his personal best by a long chalk; Northamptonshire, then tails by now down to their ankles, for these and other reasons, subsided to 136 for six.

But all this was as nothing compared to the drama surrounding events in which Ambrose, Thomas, Reeve, Robinson, the umpires and the unfortunate Bailey, Northamptonshire's captain, played starring parts.

It all began with Reeve, having reached 103, being given not out by umpire Oslear from an appeal for a catch at the wicket. This led to Thomas saying words which indicated in an unflattering way what he thought of the decision. Oslear was not

amused and indicated to Bailey, in his first match as Northamptonshire's captain, that he should keep his players in order. The incident should be reported to the TCCB.

This was just a warming-up session. Within minutes, Ambrose let fly a "beamer" which sailed past Reeve's head. Umpire Dudley said nothing. In his next over, Ambrose let fly another high full pitch.

Again nothing was said. Reeve relieved his feelings by cracking the next ball for four to mid-wicket and signalling for his chest-protector. Ambrose's response was another ball of high velocity and even higher trajectory which past the head of Ripley standing back and the forebearing Dudley signalled no-ball and delivered the warning prescribed by the Laws.

Ambrose was removed from the attack. Lunch was taken. Bailey apologized for Warwickshire, unofficially it is understood. Ambrose failed to do likewise, did not appear after lunch for 30 minutes, a swollen knee being the official reason and some time later was maintaining that he was only trying to bowl a fuller length because Reeve was advancing down the wicket.

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Glamorgan have slight advantage

By John Woodcock

BRISTOL (second day of four): Glamorgan, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 257 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

BY GAINING a first-innings lead of 120, Glamorgan kept themselves very much in their game with Gloucestershire yesterday, this despite being without Holmes and Maynard, who are nursing broken fingers and will not bat. Gloucestershire look like having to make the biggest score of the match to win it, on a pitch which no one quite trusts.

Frost, with the ball, and Butcher and Cowley with the bat, stepped into the breach for Glamorgan. Butcher again planned well, and Cowley giving him valuable help with Glamorgan were walking in their second innings. The 85 which these two put on after tea, after Richards had been leg-before to Walsh, were vital.

Glamorgan have every reason to be pleased with their three imports on the day, last August, when Surrey sold Frost they would not be requiring his services any more, he took five for 40 against Leicestershire. Now he took five again, all of them wickets that mattered. He is tall, bowls with a good, high arm, at a lively pace, and he pitches the ball up. Having bowled Wright with his first ball yesterday, he was responsible for first raising Glamorgan's spirits.

Cowley's contract has given him a new lease of life at 37. The personification of the old pro, he has already played more championship cricket this season than he did in the whole of last with Hampshire. In his first-class innings for Glamorgan he has now scored 132 runs for once out — and that a run-out. His

DeFreitas brings life to slow Lancashire

By Richard Streeton

DERBY (second day of four): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 340 runs behind Lancashire

APART from a much needed spur applied by Phillip DeFreitas, the Lancashire innings yesterday continued to meander in dreary fashion. They declared just before tea when DeFreitas was stamping after he struck 79 of 107 bats.

A sluggish pitch, which took turn and turn, was the chief culprit. The failure of the Lancashire batsmen to score more quickly, however, was put into perspective when the Derbyshire innings began.

Barnett and Morris put on 93 confident runs. Morris was caught behind against one that lifted and turned from Atherton. Five minutes before the close Barnett was caught on the legside as he tried to glance

Fitz. Lancashire, resuming at 223 for two from 98 overs, reached 300 in the 134th over and 400 in the 171st. By this time DeFreitas, driving strongly, was into his stride. Jesy, his partner, needed 31 overs for his half-century.

Austen and Fairbrother, the overnight pair, dawdled from the start. Derbyshire's spinners bowled 21 overs in the first hour with only two fours hit. Atherton, after batting 44 hours,

missed a century by seven runs when he was late as he played back to a faster ball by Barnett.

When Derbyshire took the new ball only one slip was stationed, which underlined that on this pitch containment could be the only aim.

Fairbrother, off the mark for 63, was caught off a dip from a loose shot when he tried to change gear after lunch. DeFreitas looked for runs from the start but Jesy at one point managed three in 75 minutes.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

G D Morris c Barnett b Morris 90

G Fower b Barnett 63

M A Atherton b Barnett 63

D J Austen b Barnett 63

J E Jesy not out 55

P J DeFreitas c Barnett b Morris 79

Total (5 wkt. dec) 405

Score on 120 overs: 223 for 2.

T D Fenton 105

A P Kuperus 105

R H Bird 105

R Palmer 105

Total (5 wkt. dec) 445

Score on 120 overs: 225 for 2.

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Coppell's ace for poker-game replay

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

THE destiny of the FA Cup, which could yet be claimed in the most cruel and unpredictable fashion, hangs in the balance. Manchester United do not know whether Gary Pallister will be available for tonight's replay of the final at Wembley and Crystal Palace will not reveal whether Ian Wright will be selected from the start.

Pallister, the most expensive footballer in British history, damaged an ankle during the 3-3 draw last Saturday and is still doubtful. United's central defender feels that he will be able to resume his partnership with Bruce but his manager, Alex Ferguson, is more pessimistic.

"The injury is worse than we thought," he said yesterday, "and he's behind schedule. I wanted him to be jogging yesterday but he wasn't. I will give him every chance but, at the moment, I regard him as no more than 50-50."

Ferguson added that Donaghy, whom he has not picked since March, will be the replacement but he declined to confirm whether Leighton, held responsible for at least two of Palace's goals, would be retained. The goal-keeper has at least endured the experience of a penalty shoot-out while he was at Aberdeen. If the scores are level after

Replay could create a spot of history

THE signs are that sooner rather than later, perhaps even tonight, an FA Cup final will be decided by a penalty contest when conventional play has failed to produce a winner (a Special Correspondent writes).

The penalty was introduced into the laws of the game in 1891. Not only is it still going strong, it is increasingly being used as a means of breaking the deadlock in cup matches across the world.

Last summer the Scottish FA decided that a penalty competition would resolve cup-ties if no decision had been reached after one replay and extra time. It seemed that if it was good enough for the World and European cups, it should be good enough for the Scottish Cup.

extra time, the Cup will rest on penalty kicks. Nobody, least of all those who in turn place the ball on the spot, would relish the process of elimination, which is as brutally conclusive as a game of Russian roulette.

United, as at the weekend, are expected to win, as Steve Coppell, Palace's manager, concedes. "Everybody keeps telling me that the favourites always come through," he said. He saw the most recent evidence for himself. He was in the stands at Wembley when his former team dismissed Brighton 4-0 in the replay seven years ago.

He refused to announce his

line-up until the last minute on Saturday and he is using the same play again. "It is like a game of poker," he explained. "We've already laid our hands on the table and now it is a question of what we've got uncovered."

He indicated that there would be no tactical re-arrangement. The man-for-man marking system is not only designed to belittle the unmistakable individual superiority of United but it also suits his own players. "They are happier when they are given specific tasks," he said.

Since they have again proved to themselves that

they can match United (they have not lost any of the three fixtures between the sides so far this season), he may ease the rigid restrictions which were initially imposed upon them. In his words, he could "give them more licence in the second game".

He would not disclose, though, whether he will again keep his ace up his sleeve. "If I said that Wright was playing from the start, that would allow United to plan accordingly. Since they don't know, that gives them an element of doubt." And severe anxiety as well.

With his explosive pace, Wright can run through any

defence, let alone United's comparatively ponderous back four. After his prolonged absence, however, he could burn himself out prematurely and Coppell is reluctant to risk losing his most dangerous weapon before sufficient damage has been inflicted.

Hughes, often irritatingly little more than a terrifying physical presence, spread fear across Palace through more legitimate and appealing conduct five days ago. He will do so again if O'Reilly, his marker, persists in filling the role of a diffident dancing partner. He must act instead like a ruthless rival.

Although Wallace played a

part in all three of United's goals, he might have caused greater confusion. Given appropriately early service, with his speed and ability he could leave Pemberton spinning like a revolving door and unhinge Palace on the left flank, where they appear to be most vulnerable.

In 1980, Arsenal lost the Cup Winners' Cup final on penalties. Four years later luck turned the other way for English clubs with Liverpool winning their fourth European Cup, and Tottenham Hotspur the UEFA Cup, from the spot.

Imposed by the game's administrators, and despised by managers, coaches and players, its drama ensures the penalty contest is here to stay.

Indeed, the World Cup final itself

could be decided by such a method in Rome on July 8.

It is unlikely to be so

PROBABLE TEAMS

MANCHESTER UTD

J Leighton	1
P Ince	2
L Martin	3
S Bruce	4
M Phelan	5
G Pallister	6
B Robson (capt)	7
N Webb	8
B McClair	9
M Hughes	10
D Wallace	11

SUBSTITUTES: 12: M Robins;

13: M Donaghy.

CRYSTAL PALACE

N Martyn	1
J Pemberton	2
R Shaw	3
A Gray	4
G O'Reilly	5
A Thom	6
P Barber	7
G Thomas (capt)	8
M Bright	9
J Salako	10
A Pardew	11

SUBSTITUTES: 12: I Wright;

13: D Madden.

Referee: A Gunn.

REPLAY FACTS

● This is the thirteenth FA Cup final to have gone to a replay. The others were in 1875, 1876, 1886, 1901, 1902, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1970, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

● On the three occasions when the replay has involved a London club against a non-London side, the Cup has been won by the London side. In 1901 Tottenham Hotspur beat Sheffield United 3-1 (after a 2-2 draw); in 1970 Chelsea beat Leeds United 2-1 (after a 2-2 draw) and in 1981 Tottenham beat Manchester City 3-2 (after a 2-2 draw).

● United are the last club to win the Cup in replaying, beating Brighton 4-0 in 1983.

● Victory for United would make Alex Ferguson the first post-war winning manager of both the English and Scottish FA cups, having won the trophy north of the border in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986.

Sheedy prevents untimely defeat

From Clive White
Dublin

Rep of Ireland..... 1
Finland..... 1

A PROUD Irish chest saved the Republic of Ireland considerable embarrassment and at the same time their unbeaten run in Dublin of 19 games here yesterday with just four minutes remaining of their last game before their devoted public prior to the World Cup finals.

When a cross from Houghton found its way Adridge, who had come on as substitute, he thundered a shot against the underside of the crossbar. Without waiting for a favourable verdict from Roger Gifford, the Welsh referee, Sheedy, another second-half substitute, ran forward to chest the ball over the line for his first international goal since October 1988.

Typically, it was in a match in which the Irish had little to fear, against the makeweights of international football, that their record and newly-established reputation came under threat. Finland presented a lively challenge and took the lead with a fine goal from Vesa Taurainen, who volleyed a shot from 25 yards to perfection after 77 minutes.

The game, which also doubled as Liam Brady's testimonial, was for the most part a strangely muted affair before a relatively small crowd by Lansdowne Road's heady days of 31,556. Indeed, initially it responded only to Brady, enthusiastically cheering his every touch while wishing that he could turn the clock back.

Brady, who was establishing a new Republic record of 72 appearances, did his best to please everyone, including Jack Charlton, his manager, occasionally drawing ironic applause from the crowd when he closed defenders down in a most uncharacteristic manner.

But Brady is a creative force not a destructive one and that, thankfully, is how we will remember him. He earned a six-minute stay of execution

beyond the 20 minutes allotted him but when the time came to depart from the stage he could not hide his disappointment. A wave to the crowd, a short embrace with his executioner, a brief handshake with Townsend, his successor, and Brady was gone.

Townsend wasted no time in fulfilling the kind of demands which Brady was sometimes reluctant to do by flattening Parsi. Taurainen beat his first challenge for the ball. But there is more to Townsend than brute force and before the opening half was over he had more than justified his position as Brady's successor.

Pushing forward vigorously from midfield he combined effectively with Casciano to carve out an opening for Byrne and the shot which the Le Havre forward thrashed goalwards was stopped by the legs of Huttunen, the Finnish goalkeeper.

There were warning signs that all was not well with the Republic side after just five minutes when Paatelainen, the Dundee United player, turned McCarthy with disturbing ease. Gradually the Irish warmed to their task

A characteristically lengthy throw by McCarthy caught the Finns off balance and from it Byrne had a shot deflected away for a corner. Brady played it to the near post and O'Leary, his old Arsenal colleague, met it with a powerful header which Huttunen did well to push over the crossbar.

But one had to search hard to find individual successes in the Irish team. Houghton on his return to the side after an absence of two games was definitely one.

THE SUPPORTERS OF LEEDS UNITED WILL PAY THE HIGHEST SEASON-TICKET PRICES IN ENGLISH FOOTBALL TO WATCH THEIR SIDE NEXT SEASON. BIG PRICE INCREASES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED JUST 11 DAYS AFTER LEEDS ENDED A RETURN TO THE FIRST DIVISION AFTER AN ABSENCE OF EIGHT YEARS.

A SEASON TICKET FOR THE MAIN STAND GOES UP NEARLY 2½ TIMES FROM £145 TO £355; THE LOWFIELD ROAD STAND PRICE IS UP BY 120 PER CENT, FROM £125 TO £274, AND A SEASON TICKET FOR THE KOP TERRACE AREA WILL RISE 102 PER CENT, FROM £70 TO £142.

THE PRICE INCLUDES ADMISSION TO ALL 19 FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES NEXT SEASON AND A GUARANTEED TICKET FOR FIVE CUP MATCHES.

BY COMPARISON, A MAIN STAND SEASON TICKET AT LIVERPOOL, THE CHAMPIONS, WILL COST £135, ALTHOUGH THAT COVERS

INCREASES IN PRICE. I AM SURE THAT MY REACTION WILL BE SHARED BY MOST MEMBERS OF THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB. OBVIOUSLY, INCREASES WERE EXPECTED IF WE ARE TO COMPETE WITH THE TOP CLUBS BUT THESE DO SEEM VERY HIGH INDEED."

ROSE SILVER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB, DEFENDED THE INCREASES: THEY WERE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT HIS CLUB GENERATED REVENUE TO BUILD A TEAM WHICH WOULD BE CAPABLE OF CHALLENGING FOR HONOURS.

"WE ARE MAKING A QUANTUM LEAP INTO THE FIRST DIVISION AND WE ARE SHOOTING FOR THE VERY TOP. IF WE DO NOT TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS WE WILL BECOME JUST ANOTHER, AVERAGE, FIRST DIVISION CLUB. WE DO NOT WANT A HALF-COCKED FOOTBALL TEAM IN THE CITY OF LEEDS," HE SAID.

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Graham's hunt is at last rewarded

By Dennis Signy

DAVID Seaman, the Queen's Park Rangers and England player, joined Arsenal yesterday for £1.3 million, a British record transfer fee for a goalkeeper, surpassing the £1 million that Crystal Palace paid Bristol Rovers for Nigel Martyn earlier in the season.

The move also equalled the world record set when Rinat Dassayev moved from Moscow Spartak to Seville, in Spain, in November 1988.

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